

Portfolio £42,000 to be won

There is £42,000 available to be won in the Times Portfolio competition today. Because last week's £20,000 prize was not won that is added to this week's £20,000. To this total of £40,000 is added today's daily prize of £2,000.

Pledge to blacks by Botha

President Botha of South Africa yesterday promised new political structures and property rights to allow the country's black majority to decide on their own affairs up to the highest level.

Murder charge

A youth aged 16 was remanded in custody of a week when he appeared before magistrates at Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, yesterday, charged with murdering a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment four years ago.

Emergency date

France has extended the state of emergency in New Caledonia where 23 people have died in clashes over independence plans until June 30.

Siege goes on

Armed police last night continued to lay siege to a house in Sutherland where a man wanted for questioning about the shooting of the police dog Yamba is defying appeals to come out.

Agent in tears

One of the Polish secret police agents accused of murdering a solidarity priest wept in court when a film was shown of the body being pulled from a reservoir.

Savings issue

The thirtieth issue National Savings certificate, announced yesterday, will challenge new building society deposit rates with a tax-free 8.85 per cent return after five years.

Vienna outcry

Austrian politicians are demanding the resignation of the Defence Minister, who met the Nazi war criminal Walter Reder when he arrived in Graz, from Italy.

Water pressure

The Government is to insist that water authorities make substantial increases in their rate demands, in spite of a court action threat by the Thames authority.

Budget threat

Anyone thinking of taking out a personal pension plan should act before March 19 when the Budget may abolish some of the pension funds' tax privileges.

Sidon wait

Lebanon's muslim militias are waiting patiently to advance on the road to Sidon as Israel's Christian allies withdraw.

C5 hitch

A decision on starting a third production line for the Sinclair C5 electric car has been delayed because of industrial action.

Pay dispute

Council manual workers are to consider industrial action after rejecting a 4.75 per cent pay offer worth £3.70 per week.

Budd's victory

Zola Budd, competing in Britain for the first time since the Los Angeles Olympics, won a 1,500 metres heat in the WAAA championships last night.

Leaders: On televising the Lords, from Capt P. R. D. Kimm, and others; homeless in London from Mr I. Harrington. Leading articles: Public section pay; the Pope's visit to Latin America; penance Oblituary, page 10. Dr George Katkov, Beno Blacut

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Apps, Arts, Business, Court, Crossword, Diary, Law Report, Parliament, Religion, Sale Rooms, Science, Services, Sport, TV & Radio, Universities, Weather.

NUM and coal board agree on 'talks about talks'

By Paul Routledge and Peter Daveport

The miners and the National Coal Board are to have fresh 'talks about talks' early next week aimed at a swift settlement of the 46-week old pit strike.

After a discreet exchange of views between the parties yesterday, negotiations are to resume on a trial basis initially. The NCB appears to have quietly sidestepped a Government requirement that there should be a written commitment in advance of the talks that the miners will accept the closure of pits on economic grounds.

National officials of the National Union of Mineworkers will meet their opposite numbers at the coal board next Tuesday, and Mr Michael Eaton, chief spokesman of the NCB, last night made it clear that he expects the union to signal a shift of policy that will permit a full-scale reopening of talks involving the full NUM executive.

The Tuesday talks will establish whether the union will make the "historic compromise" required by the board, but all the signs emanating from the NUM are that it will accept a new regime in the industry with the best grace that it can muster.

One person not involved in Tuesday's talks is Mr Ned Smith, the NCB's industrial relations director who has been disgraced according to colleagues.

Mr Smith was the man who laid the basis for a renewal of the peace process during secret 'talks about talks' with the NUM five days ago, but his

contribution is regarded within the NCB as controversial although the minutes of the meeting established for the first time that the union would be prepared to talk about the closure of uneconomic pits.

Another 190 miners abandoned the dispute yesterday, adding fresh pressure to the union leaders.

The coal board made clear at an informal press conference in Yorkshire that unless the union accepted in advance that pits would have to close on economic grounds, the discussions would not go ahead. But Mr Eaton was "absolutely sure" that the miners' leaders knew what issues would be on the Tuesday's agenda, and once that agenda was established full negotiations could take place "very soon afterwards" - perhaps the next day.

Further unhappiness with the coal board's demand that the NUM should accept in advance that pits must close on economic grounds was voiced by the pit deputies' union leaders, the leaders of which last night urged the coal board to respond positively to the miners' proposal for fresh talks.

Mr Peter McNestry, the union's general secretary, said that his organization would never accede to such demands and insisted that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had been "after" the NUM from day one. "It has become a political strike. It is clear now that she is involved in running the coal board's business."

"She countermanded an arrangement between senior director Ned Smith and the

NUM. She has total involvement and she is out to destroy the NUM."

There were varying assessments of the NUM's position yesterday, and Mr Michael McGahey, vice-president, insisted that it would not give a written guarantee to discuss closures. He told a rally in Glasgow that the NUM was willing to go into talks without pre-conditions, and he hoped that a principled settlement would emerge.

But neither the Prime Minister nor anyone else could demand that the union committed itself before entering negotiations. "This Government is alienating itself from the people with its demand for blood. They are not having the blood of the miners with 80 per cent of our members still on strike."

His comments came after NUM leaders had given the go-ahead for peace talks, and South Wales miners, who have been the strongest bastion of the strike, indicated to their leaders that they wanted a swift settlement and an orderly return to work.

Confirmation of Tuesday's talks finally came at 3pm when Mr Eaton held an informal press conference at the headquarters of the North Yorkshire area of the NCB, at Alerton Bywater.

He had spent the morning in meetings with Mr Ian MacGregor, board chairman, Mr James Cowans, his deputy, who had spent a second day touring area headquarters in the Yorkshire coalfield. The low senior NCB



Talking about talks: Mr Michael McGahey (top) addressing a Glasgow rally yesterday and Mr Ian MacGregor leaving an NCB meeting in Yorkshire.

Howe defends Tory record on jobs as second to none

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Success for the Government's economic policies would require a national effort and the enlarging of common ground, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

He said the Conservatives were well aware of the need for the greater degree of national unity and he warned his party that it must maintain its cohesion.

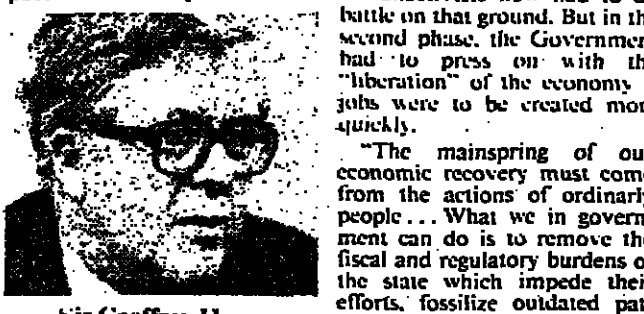
It would be unwise to suppose that the divisions of the left would lead to an effortless Conservative victory at the next election.

In a wide-ranging speech to the Cambridge University Conservative Association, Sir Geoffrey set out to repudiate the favourite charges of the Government's opponents: that it was rigidly ideological, favoured the rich against the poor and welcomed conflict.

The first charge he found astonishing. The Conservative record, he said, showed "an essentially pragmatic approach" towards industrial support and employment legislation, where they had sometimes moved more carefully than some had wished.

"We do not believe in absolutes about economic policy," he said.

Concern for the weak and poor was shown by the Govern-



Sir Geoffrey Howe: National unity

£150m drugs on beach

Manalapan, Florida (AFP) - A woman found 1,100 lbs of cocaine, with an estimated street value of \$170 million (£150 million) on the beach in this southern Florida resort on Thursday, police said yesterday.

The cocaine was probably dumped on the beach several hours before by drug smugglers who "got scared off by something or someone," a police spokesman said. "Somebody's going to feel very bad tonight," he added.

It was in crystal form and probably destined for an illegal processing laboratory.

Sterling falls again in worry over oil

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound fell to new lows yesterday, as nervousness on the run-up to Monday's meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Despite news of record exports in December, the sterling index slipped 0.1 to a new closing low of 70.6, the pound losing 58 points to \$1.1132 against the dollar a more than half a penny to DM3.5240 against the mark.

Later in New York, the pound was down to \$1.1080 and DM3.51.

That pressure added to concern over interest rates. The three-month interbank rate rose to 12.125, up 1/4 on the day and well above the 12 per cent base rate charged by the high street banks.

The trade figures showed a current account surplus of £193 million in December, and record exports of £6,701 million.

For 1984 as a whole, the current account was in the black by £196 million, down from 1983's £2,294 million surplus but better than the Treasury expected at the time of its autumn statement in November, when it forecast zero current account balance.

The miners' strike, which increased oil and coal imports and reduced coal exports, cost

US to make aid depend on reforms

From Bailey Morris Washington

The Reagan Administration is preparing to inject an important new emphasis on economics into US foreign policy during the President's second term, insisting on internal reforms before it dispenses foreign aid to some countries, officials said.

For example, runaway inflation in Israel and mounting unemployment in Europe will be linked to foreign aid and Nato discussions.

Mr Donald Regan, at present the Treasury Secretary, is planning key personnel changes which will reflect the new strategy when he moves to the White House as Chief of Staff next month.

The Treasury is likely to adopt a different tone and strategy under Mr James Baker, the current White House Chief of Staff, who is expected to be confirmed next week by the full Senate as Treasury Secretary.

Mr Baker made clear in his confirmation hearings this week that both he and President Reagan plan to emphasize tax reform as the Administration's top economic priority.

The emphasis on economic foreign policy was also outlined by Richard Lugar, the new chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee in an interview with The Times.

Mr Lugar, who is seeking to build a "national consensus" on US foreign policy goals, began next week with a comprehensive set of public hearings, said economic concerns must be linked to political and security deliberations with America's allies.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, introduced a similar security-economic link into the annual bilateral talks between the US and the European Community.

The Reagan Cabinet had been considering a second term programme to teach Europeans how to overcome their economic problems using the American recovery as a model even before Mr Reagan was named to his new job, officials said.

Pope summons bishops to study Vatican 2

Rome (AP) - The Pope announced that he is calling an extraordinary worldwide bishops synod to re-examine the changes made by the Second Vatican Council "in the light of new demands".

It would meet in Rome from November 25 to December 8, he said. The synod would aid the church "on the road to the third millennium of history".

The Pope's unexpected announcement was made during a Mass in the Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls.

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Reagan uses Iran link to back Contras

President Reagan is using the presence in Nicaragua of Mir Hussein Mousavi, the Prime Minister of Iran, to support his case for a resumption of covert aid to anti-Sandinista rebels, (Nicholas Ashford writes from Washington)

The President said Iranian support for the Sandinistas posed a new danger in Central America.

Although Mr Mousavi is said to be discussing a possible oil deal, US sources claim he may be discussing arms shipments to the Sandinistas.

Britain and China agree to space technology links

By John Lawless

Britain is to exchange information on space technology with China. An agreement, which will include exchanges of space scientists, is to be signed in London on Monday by Mr Li Xia, China's first deputy minister for astronautics and space.

The agreement, in the form of a memorandum of understanding, will be followed a week later by another with France. It is part of a European attempt to ensure a full involvement in China's fast-growing space and satellite industry.

A nine-strong Chinese party visiting Europe is to go on to

French Guiana to see a launch on February 8 or 10, which is Europe's competitor to the United States space shuttle in the multi-billion dollar business of placing satellites in orbit.

China has launched about 17 satellites. The suggestion that a possible space programme should be formalized was made by the Chinese last July, during exchange visits between British manufacturing companies led by senior officials from the Department of Trade and Industry, and Chinese scientists.

The signing comes at a time when the western leaders in commercial space development

are trying to decide whether to work together, or to compete.

The 11 member governments of the European Space Agency are to meet later this month to discuss whether they should cooperate more closely with the United States. France is demanding that an independent line be pursued, but West Germany has already committed funds to an US project.

The Europeans know that Japan is also a force to be increasingly reckoned with, and have been watching the growth of the infant Chinese space industry with admiration.

Mr Michael Freeman, marketing manager of Marconi Space Systems, whose factory

in Havant, Hampshire, will be visited by the Chinese delegation during an extremely busy week in Britain, said yesterday: "One should not underestimate the Chinese. Using their own national launch vehicle, Long March III, they have put their first geo-stationary satellite into orbit."

In the long-term, he adds, it would be perfectly feasible to see China competing in space with Europe, the US and Japan.

The French and West Germans have recently been trying to sell satellites to China for a national transmission system, capable of overcoming

its mountainous terrain and huge areas. It has become clear to British manufacturers that the Chinese are keen to license certain bits of existing space technology, and to possibly move to joint development.

They are keen, for example, to acquire expertise in "composite materials processing", using carbon fibres to produce extremely tough, but very light, space pay-loads. They also want to know about altitude and orbital control techniques which, by using Sun, Earth or star sensors, allow satellites to be precisely positioned.

There is also the possibility that Europe can learn from the Chinese.

Ethiopia cholera results delayed

From Paul Valley Addis Ababa

Results of the tests to establish whether cholera is the cause of the diarrhoea which is claiming hundreds of lives in the refugee camps of Ethiopia have still not been published here.

The World Health Organization expected them two days ago but last night a Health Ministry spokesman said no statement would be issued "for two or three days".

Western doctors in the camps and in relief agency headquarters maintain the disease is cholera. A laboratory technician from the French agency, M. G. Franchet, made microscopic tests in the field and said the germ responsible was almost certainly cholera.

The only way to establish conclusive proof is by tests on cultures grown from specimens of contaminated water and the faeces of victims. The analysis is difficult and it is possible for tests to be negative even when cholera is responsible. It is understood that specimens from Harbo and other camps have been sent to Nairobi for further examination.

GENEVA: The World Health Organization said it was "still awaiting official information" from Addis Ababa on "this outbreak of illness" (Alan McGregor writes).

There are many examples of countries, particularly those with tourism aspirations, asserting that outbreaks of cholera or no more than violent diarrhoea and vomiting. Despite laboratory confirmation, some never admit it.

LONDON: A further £5 million of British aid for victims of famine in Africa and refugee relief was announced yesterday by Mr Timothy Raison, the Minister for Overseas Development.

In reply to a written parliamentary question from Mr Robert Key, MP for Salisbury, Mr. Raison said: "I have decided to give £1 million to the 1985 Africa appeal of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; £1 million to the African emergency appeal of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, for use in Sudan; £1 million to the High Commissioner's 1985 programme for Afghan refugees in Pakistan; and £2 million to the 1985 Africa general appeal of the International Committee of the Red Cross, to continue its work in Ethiopia."

This latest allocation is in response to appeals from the international relief agencies. Britain's contributions will be made in the current financial year 1984/5 from the overseas aid budget.

This brings the total government allocations of emergency aid for disaster and refugee relief from the overseas aid budget to about £47 million since April 1984.

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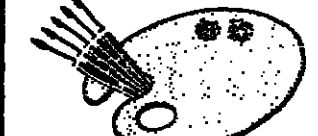


Bumper Britain

A weak pound encourages holidays on the home front Page 12, 13

100 Best ever

Good design from jeans to razors at the V&A Page 15



Flesh tones

At Renoir's first exhibition for 30 years, the female form predominates Page 18



Cross country

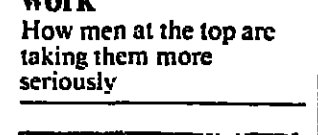
David Miller looks at a skiing revolution Page 31

MONDAY



Women at work

How men at the top are taking them more seriously



War of nerves

What will be the results of stress and division when the coal strike ends

Advertisement for Thistle Hotels featuring a Jaguar XJS HE car and text: 'Do you have the key? Have you received your Thistle Key yet? It could open the door to a Jaguar XJS HE Coupé. Or one of three Austin Mini Mayfairs. Or one of six trips to the USA on Concorde. Or even one of hundreds of Thistle Highlife Breaks. All these prizes can be won when you visit any Thistle Hotel during January and February 1985 and present your Key to open our 'World of Thistle' safe. Your Key also guarantees a gift of two bottles of Appellation Contrôlée wine when you stay at full or corporate rates for a minimum of two nights. For every guest, there is a special welcome and the chance to enjoy the benefits of our current £30 million investment programme in new facilities. You'll also find that the American Express Card is warmly welcomed at each of the 35 Thistle hotels. Phone 01-937 8033 to make your reservation. Full details of the Thistle Key promotion will be sent on request, with your booking confirmation. THISTLE HOTELS London, Birmingham, Carlisle, Cheltenham, Gatwick, Kendal, Liverpool, Luton, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham, St. Albans, Thesside, Westbridge, Aberdeen, Aviemore, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Shetland

Computer jobs cut as sales decline

by Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Further evidence that the British home computer bubble may have burst emerged when Commodore, the computer manufacturer, announced yesterday that it was cutting its workforce at its subsidiary in Corby, Northamptonshire, would be made redundant because of falling sales.

The announcement is a surprise as its products are the second most popular high street machines and it comes at the end of a week when Commodore's rivals announced drastic cuts in the price of their machines to stimulate sales.

More than 1.7 million home computers were sold last year according to City analysts with a retail value of £315m, but the expectation had been greater. This week, Sinclair reduced its Spectrum by £50, to about £130. The next day the other top British home computer supplier, Acorn, makers of the BBC microcomputer and the Electron, cut the Electron price by a third, to match Sinclair.

These reductions and the Commodore announcement indicate a nervousness that the British market, proportionately the biggest and most active in the world, has become saturated. Retailers are also disillusioned with some products because of tight profit margins.

However, stockbrokers Wood, Mackenzie in a report on the home computer industry were optimistic.

"Good growth in real disposable incomes over the next two years should provide the basis for overall spending on computers to continue to rise sharply. We forecast spending at £590m (up 27 per cent) this year

Minister insists that water rates must be forced up

By Alan Hamilton

There was no possibility of the Government altering its decision to force water authorities to increase water rates substantially this year, in spite of a threat by the Thames Water Authority to take legal action. Mr Ian Goss, Minister for Housing and Construction said yesterday.

Speaking on Radio 4, Mr Goss said that he had written to all Conservative MPs in the Thames Water area reminding them of government policy that the public sector should earn a proper rate of return on investment.

The letter was a response to one sent to the MPs last week by Mr Roy Watts, chairman of Thames Water, in which he said that the Government was forcing up water rates by 10 per cent this year, whereas Thames Water wanted a 3 per cent rise.

Mr Goss said that there would be a parliamentary debate on the Government's demand first made last autumn, that water authorities should tighten financial guidelines and repay debts early. Mr Watts has said that unless Parliament has approved the move by February 20, when his board meets to fix the 1985 water rates, he will consider taking the Government to court over an improper use of its powers.

Normal procedure under section 29 of the Water Act, 1973, is for the minister to lay an order on which Parliament can vote, requiring an authority to achieve a given return on assets.

But hostility among Conservative MPs, scores of whom have constituencies in the Thames area, is putting parliamentary approval in doubt. MPs believe that ministers are contemplating passing Parliament by using an obscure part of the Act (section 32 of schedule 3) to make a direction

which would not be subject to parliamentary sanction. Mr Goss said that the Government's intended to raise Thames Water's return on investment from 0.5 per cent to 1.37 per cent, which would still be the lowest return required from water authorities.

Meanwhile, Thames Water officials have compiled a private report suggesting that the authority and customers would fare much better if the undertaking was privatized. It says that Thames Water is more profitable than ICI or Marks and Spencer, and that the profitability could be sustained with annual price rises of no more than 3 per cent.

The Government, however, has demanded an extra £40 million revenue, and early repayment of debts.

Thames is the only regional authority to challenge the government, although all have made known their displeasure at the new financial guidelines.

Other increases are: Anglian: Average increase of 12.4 per cent agreed this week. Northumbrian: Decision to be made on February 8; hope rise will be just under 7 per cent.

North-West: Decision next month; 6 to 7 per cent rise was planned, but now expected to be 13 per cent.

Severn-Trent: Would have been 5 per cent without new financial targets, likely to be 12 per cent; decision on February 12.

Southern: Planned 5.2 per cent, 11.5 per cent rise is expected; decision on February 13.

South-West: Would have been 5 per cent; rise kept to 10 per cent by cutting operating costs.

Welsh: Would have been 6 per cent; likely to be between 10 to 12 per cent for domestic customers, less for metered customers in declining industries; decision on February 8.

Yorkshire: Increase of 10.6 per cent agreed.



Musical backing: Mr Norman Willis playing a song he and TUC colleagues recorded for the GCHQ rally at Central Hall, Westminster (Photograph: John Chapman).

Staff association for GCHQ

By Our Labour Correspondent

A staff association at the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham said that it would take about three months to set up. It would represent four divisions at GCHQ and form a direct link with management, although its rights have not yet been agreed with management.

Mr Patrick Duffy, secretary of the steering committee to establish the staff association, said that it would take about three months to set up. It would represent four divisions at GCHQ and form a direct link with management, although its rights have not yet been agreed with management.

The Civil Service unions, which represented about 4,500 of the staff before the Government ban, have pledged to fight the association's registration with the Certification Officer for Trade Unions, because they claim it is management-inspired. The unions say they have about 300 members still at GCHQ, while management claims that there are fewer than 70.

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, told a rally in London yesterday that the aim of the meetings was to "recognize that we are celebrating their bravery. We are not celebrating the fact that after a year their civil rights as citizens and trade union members are still being threatened".

After the rally a deputation delivered a petition to 10 Downing Street calling on the Prime Minister to restore full freedom of association, including the right to join a trade union, to all staff at GCHQ.

Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy Labour leader, told a meeting in Birmingham: "The GCHQ scandal is a scandal of Mrs Thatcher's temperament and Mrs Thatcher's technique."

Black voter drive starts

A Home Office initiative to persuade more black people to register to vote was launched in Birmingham yesterday at a meeting of registration officers and representatives from local authorities, community relations councils and ethnic minority groups.

The meeting, the first of a number being organized throughout the country, was to explain the registration process and discuss how more people from ethnic minorities could be persuaded to register.

Greenham 13 lose vote

The names of 13 women living outside the main gate of the Greenham Common cruise missile base are to be deleted from the electoral register of Newbury district council after objections raised at a special electoral court.

Announcing his decision last night, Mr Jim Turner, electoral registration officer for Newbury, said he accepted that the women lived at Greenham Common, but he had to alternative to deleting their names from the register because their residence was illegal under the Highways Act. The women are expected to appeal.

Girl's body found

The body of Samantha Waite, aged 14, of Kingsfisher Drive, Chatham, Kent, was found on Thursday in a cupboard at a house in Luton High Street, Chatham. The girl, who had been strangled, had been missing since Sunday. The police want to interview Kevin Leach, aged 20, who lives at the house where she was found.

Terror charge

William Henry Gallagher, aged 37, a seaman, of New Lodge Road, Belfast, appeared before magistrates at Liverpool yesterday charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act with conspiring to cause an explosion. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

£25m contest

By Charles Kneivitt, Architectural Correspondent

A £25 million architectural competition to redevelop the prominent Grand Buildings site in Trafalgar Square will be launched on Monday by its owners, the Land Securities Investment Trust. It is expected to draw hundreds of entries, including many from abroad, and could overshadow the controversial National Gallery extension plans, still under discussion.

The scheme will contain, it is believed, 300,000 sq ft of space on a triangular island site bounded by the Strand, Northumberland Avenue and Northumberland Street, in the south-east corner of the square. There will be 200,000 sq ft of offices and 100,000 sq ft of retail space which could be worth more than £60 million in total on completion.

The developers have submitted a proposal to the EEC to include the planned European Community Trade Mark Office in the scheme. Sir Hugh Wilson, a past president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, will be chairman of the panel of assessors. Mr William Whitfield and Mr Nicholas Grimshaw, both distinguished architects, are also on the panel, together with Sir John Boynton and Mr Ian Henderson of Land Securities.

The site includes Standard House, on Northumberland Avenue, as well as Grand Buildings, formerly the Grand Hotel.

The competition is likely to be in two stages, with 10 finalists selected to proceed to stage two. Three designs will be chosen by the assessors for the sponsor, Land Securities, to make the final choice.

The developer has gone to great pains to ensure that there is no repeat of the National Gallery fiasco, where a scheme has yet to be agreed by the trustees, the Government's Property Services Agency and the developers, Trafalgar House Developments.

Joint selection risks Alliance, SDP MP says

The Social Democratic Party was warned against the dangers of joint selection of candidates by the two parties in the SDP-Liberal Alliance yesterday, on the eve of this weekend's conference in Birmingham of the party's policy-making body, the Council for Social Democracy.

Mr John Cartwright, SDP MP for Woolwich, has written in the latest issue of *New Democrat*, that joint selection could destroy the balance in candidates achieved between the two parties in 1983.

The conference opens today with a debate on policy, including the dispute over the policy of banning the use of plastic bottles.

Satellite news

The weekly magazine, *The Economist*, was transmitted to Singapore by satellite for printing for the first time this week.

Sinclair car plan hit by strike call

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

A decision to start a third production line to make the Sinclair C5 electric vehicle has been postponed because of industrial action by Hoover employees at the Merthyr Tydfil factory in South Wales.

A one-day strike planned by the workers has led to the cancellation of a visit to the factory on Tuesday by the Prince and Princess of Wales, which the company hoped would gain world-wide publicity for the three wheel vehicle which sells for £400.

Officials of the engineering workers' union at the factory decided on a 24-hour stoppage to coincide with the royal visit as part of their fight to gain a 7 per cent pay award in line with colleagues at the Hoover factory in Glasgow. They have been offered 4 per cent.

The Merthyr Tydfil factory, which manufactures washing machines, has been making heavy losses in the face of fierce international competition and is selling its products at 1980 prices.

Hoover plans to invest £10 million to modernize the Merthyr Tydfil factory and has told the 2,100 employees there that fewer of them will be needed to make washing machines.

£1.5m grant for new film group

By Robin Young

Details were announced yesterday of the British Screen Finance Consortium, which is intended to replace the public National Film Finance Corporation in part-financing British films.

The consortium members, Channel Four, the British Videogram Association, Rank and Thorn-EMI, are to contribute £1.1 million a year. The Government has promised revenues from the corporation's rights to £500,000, and an annual grant for investment in film production of £1.5 million for five years.

Any profits from the consortium's productions are to be retained in financing further projects for the first three years of its existence.

Though the main investors will be represented on the consortium board, a chief executive is to be appointed to edit editorial and investment decisions, and control the consortium's overheads.

Simultaneously with these announcements, Mr Peter Sainsbury said that he would be leaving as head of the production department of the British Film Institute in May. Mr Sainsbury has been in the job for the past 10 years. Mr Sainsbury said that under the Films Bill the future of the institute looked grim.

Dismissed miners a problem for talks

By Craig Seton

Coal board officials in the regions fear that one of the most difficult issues to be tackled in any new round of talks will be the attempt to secure the reinstatement of miners dismissed during the dispute. An estimated 300 miners, the vast majority strikers, have been told that they have lost their jobs after court appearances for violence, damaging property, stealing coal and serious infringements of board rules.

One official said: "A lot of miners have been sacked for violence against working miners, who are not going to take too kindly if they see the bloke who thumped them being reinstated. That question will have to be resolved at national level".

Area directors and staff are now trying to determine what kind of atmosphere will exist in pits when a settlement is reached. There is less concern in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and south Derbyshire, where most men have worked throughout the strike.

The chief worry is in places where workers are in a minority, a very small minority in many pits, in South Wales, Kent, Yorkshire, where they are likely to be marked as "scabs" for years.

Working miners in such areas have reportedly reacted with alarm to news that a settlement could be near and have made it clear that they would prefer an end to the strike to be delayed until working men were in a majority.

Mr Ken Moses, area director for north Derbyshire - where most miners are working - has made it clear that he is prepared to consider reinstating miners dismissed for minor offences.

He has also said that after the strike he will not tolerate any indiscipline caused by recommitting violence at a pit would face dismissal.

A board official said yesterday that early indications suggested that the worst fears might have been exaggerated. "I have spoken to a lot of miners and although they say it will be a long time before they forget what has happened, old friendships in many cases are already being renewed".

Leaders of the white-collar section of the National Union of Mineworkers decided yesterday to defer a decision on whether to break away until the annual conference in May.

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Pay talks for council men break down

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Unions representing one million local authority manual workers are to meet to consider calls for a campaign of industrial action after the breakdown of pay talks with town hall employers last night.

The unions were made a slightly improved offer, from 4.75 to 4.75 per cent, which would add £3.70 a week across the board for all grades of workers. The unions said the offer was "unacceptable" and was compounded by a refusal to concede a union demand to move the settlement date away from the head of the pay queue.

Union leaders will meet early next week to plan a joint approach to their executives with the leadership of the National Union of Public Employees being the first to consider action next Friday. The other option, according to union officials, was to seek assistance from the conciliation service Acas to avert action.

The employers said that they could not afford more than they had offered. Mr Peter Henegay, leader of the employers' negotiating team, said that to concede the unions' claim for a cost-of-living increase, linked to "catching up" rises, would lead to job losses and the "destruction of large parts of local government".

Mr John Edmonds, chief union negotiator, said after the meeting that the hand of the Government was evident in the employers' decision to minimize the size of the increase and also refuse to move the settlement date from November to April.

Mr Clive Jenkins, leader of white collar workers, has sent a directive to his officials which confirms and enhances the growing pragmatism in the labour movement over employment laws. The circular includes a model ballot form on industrial action, to comply with last year's Trade Union Act, a move which will further infuriate the hard left who will have no truck with the legislation.

In an accompanying letter to his officials, Mr Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, says: "Our experience, so far, is that hard left have brought forth better offers. So carry on; do keep your officers (and me if necessary) in touch so that we can help".

'Talks about talks' on in pit dispute

Continued from page 1

men left without saying anything. But with the heightened expectations in the coalfield that the strike may be in its final throes, sources within the board cautioned yesterday against hopes of a rapid end to the dispute once full talks begin.

An official said: "It's not going to be over in a day. There are many difficulties to be solved, even when the question of uneconomic pits is resolved. We could be in for many long sessions".

An indication of the problems ahead before a full peace settlement is agreed came yesterday when two working miners at the Bentley colliery, near Doncaster, revealed details of talks they had on Thursday with Mr MacGregor, while he was visiting board offices.

He told Mr Gerry Durkin, a local worker, and Mr Carl Ford, a local official, that he had been in the pit, which has less than 70 of its workforce clocking on, that the 500 miners sacked for misconduct during the strike would not be reinstated, an issue that the NUM at numerous rallies has pledged itself to resolve.

In Gloucester, Mr Neil Kinnoch, the Labour Party leader, said that Mrs Thatcher's demand for a written guarantee from the miners as a condition for opening peace talks was "vindictive, pathetic, and shrewish". He added that he was sure negotiations would go ahead in the next few days if the Government stopped interfering.

Mr Kinnoch described the Prime Minister as a "stubborn salome who wants the miners' heads on a plate." He was convinced she was "totally isolated in her desire to impose a dreadful humiliation on the NUM".

And speaking in a Manchester last night, Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow Home Secretary, told the Prime Minister to keep her "middle-class malice" out of efforts to settle the strike. He said the public was becoming "increasingly angered by the spite and vindictiveness that Mrs Thatcher is showing towards the miners".

Woman left to freeze, PC says

Police criticized social workers during inquests at 6 am yesterday on how two elderly women froze to death in Bristol.

The early morning session was held before the inquests that were held the night before, when two police witnesses could attend together. One finished his shift at 6 am and the other was just starting his.

Both were critical of the apparent lack of concern for Miss Winifred Harris, aged 82, and Mrs Fleda Smith, aged 84, who they told the inquests that they were "appalled".

The coroner, Mr Donald Hawkins, said that in view of police complaints he would adjourn both inquests for a month. Post-mortem examinations disclosed that both women had died of acute bronchial pneumonia due to hypothermia.

Police Constable Allan McCully, who broke into the house in Avondale Road, Redfield, said it was colder inside than out.

PC McCully said: "I find it appalling that this frail old lady who was quite incapable of caring for herself, was allowed to remain in her ill-equipped home while the social services were obviously aware of this."

In the second case, PC Dennis Davies was called to the home of a retired teacher, Mrs Smith, in Conduit Road, St Paul's, after a social worker was unable to get into the ground floor council flat.

After the ambulance had taken Mrs Smith to hospital where she died the next day, PC Davies tried to speak to the social worker who had called in the police. "But he said he was too busy to wait around," PC Davies said.

Stabbed PC on dialysis

The policeman stabbed with a foot-long carving knife by a raider who stole £6 was on a dialysis machine last night after developing kidney failure.

Police Constable Allan McCully, who broke into the house in Avondale Road, Redfield, said it was colder inside than out. PC McCully said: "I find it appalling that this frail old lady who was quite incapable of caring for herself, was allowed to remain in her ill-equipped home while the social services were obviously aware of this."

PARLIAMENT JANUARY 25 1985 Life for attempted rape • Kerb crawling abuse

Increased penalties welcomed

SEX OFFENCES

The Government attached great importance to increasing the maximum penalties for attempted rape to life imprisonment. Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State for Home Affairs, said when replying to a debate on the Sexual Offences Bill, which contained the proposals. The Bill was read a second time without a vote.

He also welcomed the increase in the maximum penalty for indecent assault to 10 years as appropriate. The maximum penalty of only two years could no longer be justified. The Bill increases the maximum penalty for indecent assault on a female from five years to two years in all other cases to 10 years in all cases.

It was intolerable in a civilized society that there should be no areas for respectable women because of the activities of kerb crawlers, prostitutes, pimps and pawns. Drake, C, the sponsor of the Bill said when he moved it on and reading.

The Bill makes kerb crawling an offence and also creates an offence of persistently soliciting women for

prostitution and of soliciting women for sexual purposes in a manner likely to cause fear. Penalties for these offences, all triable only by a magistrate, are £400 in the case of the first two offences and up to £2,000 in the third.

The purpose of the Bill, she said, was to afford greater protection to women and girls than they had at present. It was thought kerb crawling was covered by the Sexual Offences Act 1956 but it had since been established it did not apply to a man soliciting for sexual purposes from a woman.

I find that interpretation of the law quite extraordinary and quirky to say the least (she said). The problem in seeking to deal with the kerb crawler is that it is not a satisfactory way of dealing with the problem. It should be dealt with by a modern Act specifically aimed at it.

Mr Thomas Cox (Tooting, Lab), welcoming the Bill, said, residents who had set up a protest group against kerb crawlers in his constituency had had windows smashed by girls' minders. It was wrong to consider whether there was need for a change in the law on women advertising their services as prostitutes.

Mr Charles Irving (Cheltenham, C) said he supported the Bill but had some misgivings and disquiet about some of the Bill's substance. The difficulty with legislation of this sort was that whether or not kerb

crawling was made an offence, the problem would not go away. It was the oldest profession in the world. Present legislation was unsatisfactory, but some definitions in the Bill such as "likely to cause fear" and "persistently to solicit" were broad and possibly open to distortion and

I would be prepared to consider sympathetically the said some of the experiments tried in other countries where premises are licensed. At this stage I would not be convinced by the argument for Government sponsored licensed brothels. There may be a case for it, but what might be more useful is to recognize that in some areas that is a possible solution.

Mr Matthew Parris (West Derbyshire, C) said cross-examination of innocent women would deter them from making complaints about street soliciting by men. He feared there was a danger of enacting legislation which could be enforced effectively only by police agent provocateurs.

Mr Ernest Roberts (Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Lab) said he did not want the innocent to suffer as a result of this Bill becoming law. Police evidence alone was not enough. There must be a victim and corroborative evidence to sustain a conviction.

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn (Perth and Kinross, C) said that he particularly objected to the section of the Bill which made it an offence for a man to solicit a woman for sexual purposes in a manner likely to cause her fear.

He had always been attracted to Miss Fookes, but had never dared to ask her to go to bed with him. He

would now have to ask her without causing her fear. He had been Solicitor General for Scotland and had been in charge of events when the Prime Minister was the guest of the Lord High Commissioner of the Church of Scotland.

For reasons of civility (he said) I will not mention the names, but a man who held grand office and had taken grandly of wine and had allowed venetas to overcome him. I do not think you would make it at the moment." That would have been an offence under that section.

They were allowed to have prostitutes, but not to ask them if they would like to act as prostitutes. He applauded the purpose of the Bill but the method chosen was so deficient as not to be merely ineffectual but bad.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, replying to the debate, said it was no longer a defect that city areas should be made difficult to live in because of sexual harassment, and Parliament had a duty to find some redress, subject to safeguards.

On the evidence I have as a Home Office minister in a borough where there is a particularly acute problem, though not in my constituency, I no longer feel that it can be argued that the balance of convenience has not tilted irrevocably in favour of change rather than against it.

He did not underestimate the

difficulty of getting women to give evidence in these cases. There were a number of problems relating to the need to ensure that innocent people were not drawn in.

However, if they were to insert into the Bill a requirement that unless a complainant was there to give evidence the charge could not succeed, the Bill's efficacy would be so gravely undermined that he doubted if it would control the nuisance they wished to redress.

To MPs who had expressed fears about agent provocateurs, he said plainly there should be no entrapment in this area or other offences. If a police woman dressed up in provocative clothes and waved on that a motorist stopped, it would be quite wrong for him to be charged with an offence although the defence of agent provocateur was not known to English law.

If a woman perfectly normally dressed walking down the street did nothing to draw attention to herself, the fact that she was a police officer trying to deal with the problem of kerb crawling would not be a case of agent provocateur.

The Government attached great importance to increasing the maximum penalties for attempted rape from seven years to life imprisonment and for indecent assault to 10 years. From the point of view of the offender, the attempted rape might often be more serious than the concluded attempt.

For an attempt he has always to have the intention to do the offence. The life sentence was to protect the public and the offender against himself. It was right the courts should have that power.

There was a strong case for

There was a strong case for

There was a strong case for

There was a strong case for

Private nursing home for the elderly to be de-registered in test case

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Blackpool health authority is to de-register a private nursing home that has received more than £50,000 of public money in the past year to care for elderly patients, after allegations of squalor and neglect at the home by former staff.

The decision is likely to provide the first test case of new nursing home regulations which came into effect on January 1. These give health authorities the power to add the name of owners and managers whose registration is cancelled to a new national "blacklist", and create a new system of appeals against health authority decisions in such cases.

The Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde health authority has served notice of intention to de-register on Mr Eric Anslow, Home, declaring he is not a fit person to run the home, which charges £145 per week because of excessive drinking and for failing to provide adequate heating or laundry facilities, failing to control the administration of drugs properly, check on staff references or run proper fire drills.



Food for thought: Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, tucking into pizza and baked beans with pupils during a visit to Oxstalls School, in Gloucester, yesterday. He met the dinner assistants who had just learned their jobs are to go as part of a £1 million economy drive by the county council. Mr Kinnock cut a cake and Mrs Jan Bubb, canteen supervisor, said: "I hope this will be the last cut of 1985".

Community policing criticized

Home Affairs Correspondent
Community policing was criticized in a Home Office report yesterday as inadequately thought through. Officers spend too much time on the beat and seldom talk to the public when on patrol.

Constantly generally opt not to work in the late evening or at night. Yet incidents reach their peak between 10 pm and midnight, the research and planning unit study says.

General duties such as attendance at court or report writing, and time spent withdrawn from the beat to go on prison escorts or other duties, accounted for more than 50 per cent of the working day.

"Many officers outside of community policing undervalued the work or even regarded it with a measure of contempt." Nearly 80 per cent of constables interviewed believed that, in general, the police service held their work in low regard. Community constables were among the first officers to be withdrawn when manpower was short.

A third of the constables surveyed reported poor contact with the CID. "The feeling was that detectives were often unaware of the value of community constables as sources of information, or were unwilling to elicit information."

Frequent breaking of continuity on particular beats by constables needing to move for career reasons was particularly damaging, the report said.

But officers did have contact with the public, while doing community involvement work, which did not entail enforcing the law. Patrol work may have helped to make people feel more secure.

A foreword to the report says that, since the study was completed, many forces, including some who look part, have introduced reforms to deal with some of the problems described.

Community Constables: a study of Policing Initiative by David Brown and Susan Iles.

UDR man gets life for Sinn Fein death

Geoffrey Edwards, aged 26, a full-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, was yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a Sinn Fein member in Armagh more than two years ago.

Edwards, who was a member of the regiment for seven years while stationed at Drumcadd Barracks, Armagh, admitted killing Peter Corrigan, aged 47, a father of 11 children, who was shot dead in October 1982, while on his way to the labour exchange. Edwards also pleaded guilty at Belfast Crown Court to 18 other charges, including six attempted murders. He was also given seven concurrent 20-year sentences for attempted murder and causing an explosion.

Minister backs father who shot intruder

A man shot and killed an intruder in his home in Dublin yesterday. A file on the incident will be sent to the republic's Director of Public Prosecutions.

The man fired a shot from his shotgun when he confronted two masked intruders at 3.30 am. Last night, the incident sparked off a debate about just how far householders can go in trying to protect their property.

Fire deaths case

Brian Roger Clarke, aged 24, a building supervisor of Claremont Street, Easton, Bristol, was remanded in custody until February 2 at Bristol Magistrates Court yesterday, charged with the manslaughter of three young men who died in a fire at a bedsitter.

Garden retrial

A judge ordered a retrial on Thursday for Michael Joyce, aged 26, accused of charging Miss Millicent Powell, aged 64, £11,350 for tidying her garden, when the cost was £624. The Oxford Crown Court jury was discharged after failing to reach a verdict.

Screen puts pupils in computer touch

All schools are being offered a new piece of computer equipment which enables pupils who cannot read or use a keyboard to use a microcomputer simply by touching the screen.

The new touch screens are aimed at the primary and special schools. They fit on the front of any monitor and sell for £210, plus VAT, a fraction of the cost of other touch screens available.

Developed by the government-backed Microelectronics Education Programme, the new screens are manufactured by Microvitec. Mr Robert Dunn, Under Secretary of State for Education, says the screens can widen the scope for using a micro to include the very youngest child, as well as those who are, for example, disabled.

The manufacturers say that for an increasing number of people touch screens are replacing conventional keyboards as a means of communicating with computers, because touching the screen is the most natural way of controlling the computer and needs no training or typing skills.

One of the unusual things about this touch screen is that it contains its own computer and can recognize shapes. Thus, if a primary school class is doing geometry, it can draw in a triangle shape and activate a program about a triangle.

Petrol-card firm's £3m debt

A credit card scheme launched by the garage trade to help prevent employees of companies adding cigarettes and chocolate to their petrol bills, has run into trouble with debts of more than £3 million.

About 300 garages are understood to be owed £2 million for petrol sold to holders of the Motor Agents Association's fuel card.

A new company, Charge Card Services, was floated last February in partnership with two private companies, Avon Administration Services, run by a former managing director of the All Star Petrol Company, and Datema, a Bristol-based computer services company. It was an immediate success.

Yesterday, Mr Philip Stein, of the MAA, said: "If anything we were too successful and our success attracted a lot of other competitors, including some of the big oil companies. But our troubles really began when we accepted existing credit card customers from garages and found ourselves lumbered with a lot of bad debts."

Sponsors sought for jet lag pill

Researchers at Surrey University are looking for sponsors for an experiment to test a pill to minimize jet lag.

The key to combating jet lag is in the hormone, melatonin, which changes the time when people become tired, Professor Vincent Marks said.

Specific ways to measure jet lag, the lack of synchronization between a person's biological clock and chronological clock, existed, he said.

Melatonin was identified by Dr Josephina Arendt who is helping Professor Marks set up the experiment to send volunteers across several time-zones, monitoring their physical and emotional reactions.

Insult victim wins right to appeal

A secretary fighting a legal battle to prove that a former employer acted unlawfully by calling her a "wog", yesterday won the right to take her case to the Court of Appeal.

Mrs Marion Souza, aged 45, of Brambling Close, Kempscott, Basingstoke, Hampshire, hopes to overturn a decision of the employment appeal tribunal that the word could not form the basis of a complaint against employers under the Race Relations Act.

The appeal tribunal had accepted that a manager for whom Mrs de Souza worked at the AA had said: "Give some typing to the wog". But it rejected her claim that, under the Act, the insult constituted a "detriment" for which she could be compensated.

Mr Robin Allen, for Mrs de Souza, argued that it was possible to suffer "detriment" merely by being "hurt" by a racist remark.

Restyled 'Scorpio' in shape for spring

The much-delayed replacement for Ford's big Granada saloon, the most successful executive car of recent years, has been restyled to reduce its likeness to the Sierra and will be launched in about three months.

Codenamed Scorpio, it was planned to appear last summer as a stretched version of the Sierra, but initial unfavourable reaction to that Corina replacement is believed to have prompted a crash restyling programme.

The last picture of the new Granada, taken in a London suburb, shows a remarkable resemblance to Rover's 3500 saloon. Last night Austin Rover said that the new Granada's shape was a tribute to the Rover's classic outlines.

Woman gets £152,000 from lover's estate

Mrs Gillian Darby, the former mistress of Mr John Davey Hanson, a wealthy Hampshire businessman who died six years ago, yesterday accepted £152,500 in settlement of her High Court claim against his estate.

Miss Darby, of Furzedown Lane, Amporn, near Andover, had been Mr Hanson's mistress from 1965 until his sudden death in March 1979. Mr Justice Peter Gibson was told. No provision had been made for her in his will, made in December 1964.

The estate, said to be now worth considerably more than £1,300,000 net, had gone to his widow, Mrs Elizabeth Audrey Hanson, aged 52, and children.

Miss Darby's counsel said that Mr Hanson was a quantity surveyor with a construction business in the Middle East.

Grant loss brings new crisis for arts centre

A new crisis faced the Riverside Studios at Hammer-smith, west London, last night with the announcement by the Arts Council of the withdrawal of its grant.

The board of the Riverside Trust met yesterday and a statement is expected to be published yesterday.

The present grant is £103,500. The trust since it opened as an arts centre in 1976 Riverside has received a total of £505,525.

The Arts Council, in a statement said it was notified 10 days ago that there was no possibility the trust could meet the conditions of the council's present grant: to balance its income and expenditure. The trust was warned last March, that it would have its subsidy withdrawn if it failed to operate within available resources.

Morecambe's £452,000

Eric Morecambe, the comedian, left estate valued at £452,592 net according to his will published yesterday.

Mr Morecambe, died aged 58 of a heart attack last May after collapsing in the wings of the Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, at the end of a show.

MPs briefed on city centre Grand Prix prospect

Birmingham is mounting a campaign this weekend to win the support of MPs for the Bill it is promoting to stage Britain's only annual round-the-houses car race.

With the future of the Monaco Grand Prix in doubt, after a clash with international racing authorities, Birmingham wants to assume the principal place on the racing calendar.

A two-and-a-half mile circuit of Birmingham city centre, taking in Bristol Street, Belvoir Street and Pershore Street, has been tried in demonstration runs at restricted speeds.

It will be enclosed by safety barriers on removable steel posts set in permanent sockets in the highway.

Famine busker praised

Billy Sage, aged 31, a busker, was given an absolute discharge at Liverpool Magistrates' Court for collecting money for a charity without a permit, after the magistrate heard that he was collecting for the Ethiopian famine appeal.

Steward cleared of murder

David Maxwell, aged 41, a club steward, of Julia Gardens, Barking, London, was cleared yesterday at the Central Criminal Court of murdering David Elmore, aged 36, a public house bouncer and James "Jimmy the Wad" Waddington, aged 38, who were said to have been hacked to death with swords at a restaurant in Barking on St Valentine's Day last year. The bodies have not been found.

Revamp for Woolworth in search of custom

A new look is being planned by Woolworth Holdings for its 901 stores in Britain and Northern Ireland. A leading design consultancy, Fitch & Co, has been appointed to help to create a "new retailing concept" for the group, which is struggling to find a distinctive market niche in Britain's rapidly changing high streets.

Libyan link with cash find

Scotland Yard, which has recovered £6,000 hidden on a mountain near Brecon, mid Wales, suspects that the cash has a Libyan connection.

Refugee's prize

Mr Quan Tat, aged 22, a Vietnamese refugee who came to Britain five years ago, has won the chairman's prize for the best first-year student awarded by the board of studies in engineering at Bradford University.

Press pay deal

About 8,000 members of the National Union of Journalists on provincial newspapers have voted three to one to accept a 5 per cent pay rise which will provide increases of between £5.50 and £7.50 a week.

Greenham hotel

A £1.8 million hotel is to be built alongside the cruise missile base at Greenham Common, near Newbury, Berkshire. Outline planning permission has been granted to Fine Inns of Newbury.

Bar prices up

Bar prices at Reading University are to go up after complaints about an increase in the number of drink-related incidents on the campus.

Sale today
Beautiful lingerie at much reduced prices
Designs by Janet Reger
2 Beachamp Place, SW3
Tel: 01-584 9560

Media shaken by Sharon action

Legal costs scare editors

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The American press feels it is coming under heavy fire. Time magazine won its two-month libel battle with Mr Ariel Sharon...

Many journalists feel strongly that neither Mr Sharon or the general had any business starting libel actions. CBS, for example, thinks that General Westmoreland is a front man for conservative interests...

Libel suit becomes inquiry into war

From Our Own Correspondent, New York

As brisk as ever, General William Westmoreland strides into the court in Manhattan. He settles down in his usual place near his lawyers...

He added that the CIA, in going along with the Army's figures, had sacrificed its integrity to public relations and political expediency.

Welcome to Nazi sparks Vienna fury

From Richard Bassett Vienna

The circumstances of the return to Austria this week of the war criminal Walter Reder have led to demands from the country's three main political parties...

Jaunty new Reagan to be his own man

From Our Own Correspondent

For the past four years the battle cry of President Reagan's aides and supporters has been "Let Reagan be Reagan". As the President begins his second term...

Mausoleum in space for \$3,900

Washington (Reuters) - For \$3,900 (£3,480) you may soon be cremated, tucked into a tiny gold-coloured capsule and blasted into space.

The Celestis Group, a new American consortium, plans to launch the remains of thousands of people into earth orbit by early 1987.

Inconsistencies confuse Springer kidnap hunt

Chur (AFP) - Swiss police reaffirmed yesterday that the three-day disappearance of Sven Axel Springer was a kidnapping...

Small farmers with big problems

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

The small and medium-sized American farmer, traditionally the personification of American values of hard work and independence...

Debt and despair for the pride of America

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

either close or gobbled up by the giant farming combines. Many of the 570,000 medium-sized farms are also in difficulties...



Gateway to south: Lebanese civilians waiting in front of Israeli tanks for permission to cross into south Lebanon at the Bate-el-Chouf crossing point

Lebanese militias play waiting game on road to Sidon

From Robert Fisk, Jijeh, Lebanon

The Christian Phalangists have almost vanished from the coast road north of Sidon, and the Sunni Muslim militias a few hundred yards up the hillsides to the east are patiently waiting for their final departure...

Spy shuttle in silent orbit to foil Russians

From Mohsin Ali Washington

The Space Shuttle Discovery orbited the Earth in silence and top secrecy yesterday to keep the Russians from following the progress of its military mission...

US reactor will float 7,800 miles to burial

By a Correspondent

America's first nuclear power reactor is to be turned into a huge radioactive parcel and floated by barge 7,800 miles through the Panama Canal for disposal.

Bomb shuts nuclear power plant on Elbe

Bonn (Reuters) - A bomb toppled two electricity pylons, shutting a West German nuclear power plant, and bomb threats were received in three south-east of Hamburg on the Elbe...

Whale groups hit at airline

Hamburg (Reuters) - Ecology and animal rights groups from 20 countries, including Britain's Friends of the Earth, announced a boycott of Japan Air Lines...

Express hits rocks, killing 7

Belgrade (Reuters) - The Yugoslav coach Belgrade to Bar overnight express train crashed into rocks blocking a tunnel entrance near Titovo Uzice...

Iran ready to help PoWs

Tehran (Reuters) - Iran would welcome impartial proposals for improving the conditions of Iraqi prisoners and would help carry them out...

Peace search

Washington (Reuters) - The Chicago-based MacArthur Foundation announced a \$25 million international study programme to discover what needs to be known to avoid the extinction of mankind...

Art removers

Brussels (AP) - Three men acting as gas company workers claiming they had to check pipes entered the house of an art collector in Rhode-Saint-Genese...

Mandela visit

Lord Bethell, a Conservative Party Member of the European Parliament, was allowed by the South African authorities to visit Mr Nelson Mandela...

Shipyard battle

Ojion (Reuters) - Shipyard workers set up blazing barricades and battled with police on this northern day of protest over job cuts...

Skiers killed

Bad Wiessee (AP) - A helicopter carrying West German competitors at a parachute skiers' competition, about 25 miles south of Munich, crashed into a Bavarian farmhouse...

Six judges begin Bhopal marathon

The judges, sitting in New Orleans, have to decide whether the cases should be heard together and in one court.

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Lord Bethell, a Conservative Party Member of the European Parliament, was allowed by the South African authorities to visit Mr Nelson Mandela...

Shipyard battle

Skiers killed

Six judges begin Bhopal marathon

From Our Own Correspondent New York

Shops que

Thousands flee into Thailand as Vietnamese guns kill 14

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Vietnamese artillery killed 14 Cambodian civilians and wounded 30 in an attack early yesterday on a resistance camp near the Thai border.

The shelling occurred only hours before Senior Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, arrived to discuss the war. He was met by General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Thai Prime Minister. A Foreign Ministry spokesman at the airport described the Vietnamese attack on Dong Rek as "a welcome to the Secretary-General". Its timing, he said, demonstrated Vietnam's contempt for the UN.

After discussions with the Thai Government, Senior Pérez de Cuéllar will visit border areas tomorrow. On Monday, he will fly to Hanoi for talks with Vietnamese ministers.

He will then return here, and is expected to meet Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Mr Son Sann, leaders of the anti-communist groups opposed to Vietnam. There are no plans to meet representatives of the most powerful of the guerrillas, the communist Khmer Rouge.

The artillery attack on Dong Rek forced 22,000 more refugees into Thailand. Almost 200,000 have fled across the border since November.

When shells began falling after the people had gone to bed, they fled through the night with only a few possessions to shelter beside a canal just inside Thailand. Many spent hours in the water, feeling safer there.

A spokesman for the Khmer People's National Liberation Front said the attack was unjustified as all the people were civilians. Apart from one small camp, the Front's strongholds on the border have been captured by Vietnamese and Cambodian government forces.

During the attack on Dong Rek, some shells landed inside Thailand but no casualties were reported.

China has said it will not stand idly by if Vietnamese attacks on Thai territory continue. In response, Hanoi said Vietnamese forces had always respected Thailand's territorial integrity.

Lange told pact allies must keep in step

From Tony Dabondin, Melbourne

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, has told New Zealand that the Anzus treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States cannot have different meanings and obligations for different members.

In Canberra yesterday Mr Hawke gave some details of a letter he wrote to Mr David Lange, his New Zealand counterpart, about his country's refusal to allow nuclear-powered or armed ships into its ports.

Mr Hawke said his letter, written on January 10, did not depart from Australia's established position on New Zealand's attitude.

However, the Prime Minister said that he would not release copies of the letter in accordance with past Government practice. Mr Hawke also said that media reports about the letter were false, misleading and damaging.

He said that in his letter he had informed Mr Lange of the United States' position on the Anzus pact. President Reagan but emphasised that he had no wish or intention to act as an emissary between the Governments of New Zealand and the United States.

The letter said Australia had its own well-known position on visits by US warships and the importance of maintaining the principle of neither confirming nor denying whether they were nuclear-powered. However, Australia could not accept as a permanent arrangement that the Anzus alliance had a different meaning and entailed different obligations for different members.

It is understood in Canberra that Mr Lange did not appreciate Mr Hawke's letter.

Mr WELLINGTON The New Zealand Government yesterday rejected what it described as pressure from Mr Hawke over its ban on US nuclear warships entering New Zealand ports (AFP reports).

Mr Geoffrey Palmer, the acting Prime Minister, said that his anti-nuclear stance would "not be altered" by Mr Hawke's letter. "There will be no nuclear ships carrying nuclear weapons in New Zealand ports while this Government is in office."

Unesco is championed by Whitlam

Canberra (Reuters) - The former Australian Prime Minister, Mr Gough Whitlam, now his country's ambassador to the United States for withdrawing from the organization and removing a quarter of its budget.

There was an element of "if you can't run it wreck it" in the US decision, he told a press conference. He predicted the United States would rejoin Unesco in a few years.

Washington had mounted an assault on specialist aid agencies and international organizations and Unesco was vulnerable because it received a bad press, Mr Whitlam said.

The US did not want Unesco to appear as the vehicle for discussions and actions wanted by developing countries. Unesco funds were "colourful allegations," Mr Whitlam said.

He said US ambassadors were able and devoted men and women but they had little experience.

Britain might change its mind about withdrawing from Unesco, Mr Whitlam thought.

Ver gives himself up in Manila

From Keith Dalton, Manila

The chief of the Philippines armed forces, General Fabian Ver, and Manila's chief of police, Major-General Prospero Olivas, surrendered yesterday to a special court after being charged with the murder of the Opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, and Rolando Galman, the man accused by the military of the killing.

The generals and a businessman, Mr Hermelicio Gosoico, charged as an accomplice in the double murder, posted bail at the anti-corruption Sandiganbayan court, where arraignment is set for next Friday.

General Ver, in civilian clothes and accompanied by an aide, surrendered at 6.30 am to the court. Three hours later, General Olivas, wearing his uniform and trailed by his lawyer, gave himself up. Both left after depositing 30,000 pesos (£1,400) bail.

Judge Manuel Pamaran ruled on sending them to the overcrowded Manila jail after police gave a warning that the inmates might kill them.

Argentina and Chile both hit at spy plane report

Buenos Aires (AFP) - A British report that Chile and Britain had an anti-Argentine spying arrangement during the Falklands war sought to "compromise" Argentine-Chilean ties, the Buenos Aires Government said.

The *New Statesman* reported the arrangement in this week's issue. Under the pact, it said, Chile allowed British aircraft bearing Chilean markings to fly out of the Punta Arenas airfield in southern Chile. The aircraft then flew over Argentina on spying and sabotage missions.

In return, the *New Statesman* said, Britain promised to give Chile an unspecified number of Canberra and Hawker Hunter aircraft, and to lift restrictions on arms sales to Chile.

Radio Love ticket

It was decently disrespectful of Radio 3 to put out *Of These I Sing* on the eve of President Reagan's inauguration, for this American Thirties musical (written by George S. Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind with lyrics by Ira Gershwin and music by brother George) revolved around the election to the presidency of one John P. Wintergreen on a ticket only marginally more far-fetched than some we have heard of in this instance. Love, the candidate, a bachelor, is persuaded that he should wed the winner of a nationwide beauty contest, which promise indeed leads to his election by a large majority.

The winner of the beauty contest turns out to be a loud and charmless Southern belle, Diana Devereaux, whose rejection in favour of his true love drops the President into all kinds of dump, starting with a suit for breach of promise. However, none of this seriously threatens his eventual triumph, and his place in the hearts of the American people is assured when the First Lady delivers twins. Boy and girl - of course. In that order - of course.

All great fun. Or nearly all, and a considerable slice of it, for the professional listener and radio devotee, arose from the knowledge that American radio is still capable of mounting such an ambitious dramatic production. The National Radio Theatre of Chicago, under the direction of Yuri Rasovsky (who also adapted the script), had very effectively scaled down the traditional expansive stage musical style of acting. The story line, with the aid of a bit of narration, was clear and generally well linked, and the sound picture was only occasionally a bit thin.

My reservations sprang mainly from the work itself. The first act had plenty of impetus, culminating as it did in the presidential wedding-cum-inauguration, followed at once by the appearance of the dire Devereaux bearing wits.

Kaufman and Ryskind also uncovered a vein of gold in the character of Throtlebottom, the vice-presidential candidate, whom nobody ever recognizes, and there were some good lines, including the classic definition of an issue - something everybody's interested in that doesn't matter a damn.

But there was a much better sustained line of satire in Ken Blakeson's play, *Famous Last Words* (Radio 4, January 14 and 20; director, Robert Cooper), in which Frank Ferner, an unemployed actor (as well as a comedian and a decided commit suicide).

This news is pounced on by a television company whose concern is chiefly how they can broadcast this event without, like the above John P. Wintergreen, dropping themselves in all kinds of dung. Ferner leads them a considerably dance and has the last sour laugh by injecting poison in between running and take when no one is shooting anything.

Set down like this, I must admit it sounds the sort of story calculated very quickly to pass beyond the hands of credibility. Yet I heard it without for one moment feeling that Mr Blakeson had done so - particularly when I thought how many times the blank-eyed little box in the living room has brought me scenes as distressing, if not more so. Remember the Vietcong prisoner shot in the head? How many times were we shown that one in full detail and even, if I recall, in slow motion?

This was a story well enough rooted in how we behave - as opposed to how we say we behave - easily to sustain the quietly grotesque elements its author gave it.

I am going to enjoy *Maharaj* (Radio 4, Saturdays), Michael Mason's six-part production on the lives of the Indian princes, mostly in the years before they were dispossessed. For a start Mr Mason appears to be feeding in *sitar*, *tabla* and sound effect with a fairly light hand. Then the interviewer, compiler and presenter is Charles Allen, whose previous work in similar series (*Plain Tales from the Raj* and his successors) has established him as a man who can draw marvellous vivid memories out of his contributors.

I particularly relished the tale of the British surgeon called on to perform an appendectomy on the son of a prince with most of the court watching. Nervous, he whistled "Mary had a Little Lamb" throughout the (fortunately successful) operation. The tune went down in court tradition as a powerful spell and a recording of it was preserved in the royal treasury.

David Wade



Mad dog and Englishman: Stalin (Philip McGough) and Churchill (Peter Sproule)

Theatre History is a mad dog

The Power of the Dog Hampstead

Iona, the heroine of Howard Barker's play, is a Hungarian photographer who falls into the hands of the Russian Army after spending four years wandering around wartime Europe with her father's old wet-plate camera. Her charmed life does not desert her now.

Finding her sister hanged, she discovers her (after photographing the corpse); she shrugs off the killing of her Jewish partner and the arrest of her NKVD lover, and is last seen photographing Stalin ("It is Joseph, isn't it?") cool as ever in her neat skirt and freshly styled hair.

You could take her for a 1944 descendant of Brecht's *Mother Courage*: another figure tramping over a devastated landscape in the wake of the armies in relentless pursuit of trade and personal survival. But the analogy breaks down when it comes to Iona's trade, as what she is assembling is a photographic record of suffering and atrocity for the eyes of people who were not there. One oddity of the piece is that, unlike her cartoonist counterpart in Barker's *No End of Blame*, she

never talks about her work or her motives for doing it; she simply gets on with the next picture and with saving her skin.

Barker is not a writer who encapsulates his meanings in key speeches; but if there is any speech that unlocks this theatrical mechanism, it is the statement that "history is a mad dog the best thing is to lie down and show your throat."

There are several characters who adopt this policy, and they all come to a sticky end, by exposing what Iona calls the "sick dog eyes that beckon rifle butts." And the play draws a persistent contrast between them and the figures who assert their civilian identities and behave as though there were no dog there at all. There is a girl film student, (Amelia Brown) who with her rifle as she describes her vision of a three-screen dialectical cinema. There is the NKVD man, played by Hugh Fraser in the languid elegance of a White Russian dandy. And there is Stephanie Fayerman's Iona, tight, businesslike features giving nothing away as she sets up her tripod in the mad, white soldiers stage post-massacre re-enactments of "The cauldron scene from *Macbeth*."

To some extent, as in other Barker plays, this leaves the

uneasy sense of a dramatist consciously contradicting the bourgeois audience's expectations. The canvas is so broad and some of the writing so self-intoxicated that the dramatic pattern becomes swamped in separate detail.

This complaint does not apply to the play's framing scenes which take place in the inner court of the Kremlin. The play goes straight in at the deep end with a post-Stalinist meeting between Stalin and Churchill (with much hilarious byplay from the wincing translators).

I regret that in deference to the tastes of Churchill (Peter Sproule), Mr Barker has let loose a mirthless Scottish comedian as a Soviet court jester. But otherwise, he has not skirted the obvious in contrasting the front-line scenes with the sight of the Leader and Teacher immersed only in thoughts of his own destiny; and pausing in discussion of the moral value of music to dispatch a cattle truck of kulaks on their one-way journey. The final meeting between Iona and this affably paranoid ogre (Philip McGough), has great climactic force in Kenny Ireland's Joint Stock production; bringing her face to face with the mad dog.

Irving Wardle

Concerts Philharmonia/Sinopoli Festival Hall/Radio 3

There is a case for saying that an orchestra which cannot play Schubert's Fifth Symphony well cannot play Mahler's Fifth Symphony well. The two works shared Thursday's Philharmonia concert, and if anyone remembered the Schubert by the end of the Mahler the memory was probably pretty dim. It consisted of a tune here and there, nothing much else of interest going on (certainly not in the middle parts or the bass line) and some amiable contributions from the solo wind mirrored only by a first oboe who sounded distinctly ill at ease.

The Mahler did not sound anything like that. The playing, under Giuseppe Sinopoli, was blazingly loud, confident and hard-hitting. The strings (who were reduced by a desk or two for the Schubert but still sounded fuzzy around the edges) were swept away under the torrent of brass sound, which was certainly, in my limited experience, one of the loudest and hardest noises I have heard in this hall. It was impressive, and the audience seemed galvanised: the ovation

at the close included repeated cheers for the brass soloists, which were amply deserved. But there was something in the way this sound was used that did remind me of the Schubert, and that was its essentially one-dimensional nature. Only a single thing appeared to be happening in the music at any given moment. When the brass blared out their trumpets in the last movement, the torrent of strings and woodwind figuration (which is marked *ff*) against the brass *ff* was totally inaudible.

And it was not just a matter of brass domination. Even in the opening section, the double basses (with separate parts from the cellos, presumably designed to be heard) sank beneath the emphasis on the tune of the moment.

When the strings were finally allowed to speak for themselves, in the Adagio, the playing was without the power that has thrust it that far, and the result was oddly limp. This was a highly characterized performance, one in which a brutal and effective directness of impact replaced the richness and diversity of Mahler's multi-layered writing. A Mahler for the 1980s: straightforwardly sensational, brutally unsubtle.

Nicholas Kenyon

Sinfonietta/Pay St John's/Radio 3

Following Sunday's plentiful fanfare for Sir Michael Tippett and the London Sinfonietta got into the main swing of their festival of music on Thursday night, giving a programme harmoniously balanced between Hungary and England.

There was a nice equivoque, too, within the Hungarian part, which offered two chamber works, Ligeti's Horn Trio and Kurtág's *Scenes from a Novel*, both recent, both freezing potentially explosive subject matter into tight, ticking forms.

Odd coincidences struck still more sharply. In contemplating sorrow at the end of one of his "scenes", there was Kurtág parading the same image we had heard from Ligeti in close of his slow finale: high violin widely separated from a deep bass (horn in Ligeti, double bass in Kurtág), the gap unbridged by a quiet jangle in the middle (symbalom in Kurtág, piano in Ligeti).

Since the two works were almost exact contemporaries, any conscious reference is unlikely. It is just that the two composers, though their paths have been quite different, keep

meeting each other at the same crossroads.

What each of them also has is a very distinct musical personality. Ligeti's trio has been widely regarded as a surprisingly "romantic" piece, but it is surely just as much concerned with mechanism, game as subterfuge as his earlier chamber pieces, the Second Quartet and the *Movement* triptych for two pianos. At least, so seemed in this plausibly stiff, not so pleasantly unskilful performance by Norma Liddell, James and John Constable.

Kurtág's *Scenes* were still more evidently connected with earlier works by him, notably the *Messages of the Late Mrs Trousova*: this is again a set of signals put out in Russian by a highly charged but closely controlled soprano (Kurtág's chosen interpreter, Adrienne Csengery). Again, too, there is so little to the music that it might seem gulleible, even styleless. Kurtág, however, invites one to listen microscopically to his fragments, and to see in their blank whiteness perfect crystal structures.

Then to England, and to the rapturous, dancing brilliance of Nicholas Maw's *Life Studies*, played complete as a 40-minute symphony for strings under the alert eye of Antony Pay.

Paul Griffiths

Television

child, which evidence suggests might suffer from spine bifida should be born, and a patient who is worried because she is so well.

It is all done in that busy-busy manner so expertly done in *St Elsewhere* and *Hill Street Blues* on Channel 4. All the bombs, medical or psychological, are jettisoned within 30 minutes.

No clear solution to any of the above problems was visible at the end though the fantasising husband, banished to the end of the garden because of his antipathy to vasectomy, was now enthusiastic about having one. The doctor thought he

might be fantasising. Tomorrow is another day and we might hear something. That is the whole thing about soap, even hygienic soap, operas. This one is well acted and well directed by David Richards. Let us hope everyone gets well soon.

Dennis Hackett

Granada's *The Practice*, written by Mike Stott, is running twice a week, on Fridays and Sundays. It is set in a health centre staffed in a way that might make a few GPs, not to mention their patients, stir enviously.

It may also, if it catches on, and given that it deals with the misfortunes of others there is a good chance that it will, deter all but the bravest from seeking to swell the ranks of those in general practice.

On the strength of last night's episode it seems, such is the

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As at close of business 14 Jan 85

Account No	00428407
Balance	125.84
Today's items	75.43
Fund transfers pending	65.00
Keycard withdr. pending	30.00
Interest accrued	1.12
Charges accrued	-0.50
Overdraft limit	200.00
Cash available from Keycard	70.00

Key 0 Account menu 1 Statement
2 Today's items 9 Finish

UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

Bank of Scotland
Make Bill Payments

Mandate No: 104
to: E of S Visa Card
Reference: 4728122727

Account to be debited on: 04th February 1985
Amount: £174.26
Bill paid by: 06th February 1985
No changes after: 30th January 1985

Key 1 To confirm this payment
2 To change this payment
3 To cancel this payment

PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Bank of Scotland
BANK OF SCOTLAND Inter-account transfers
Details

From: Current Account No 00428407
Grant J A Pers Acc
Home Banking Centre

To: Investment Account No 02037184
Grant J A
Home Banking Centre

Amount: £100.00

Key 1 To send 2 Not to send
3 Change Accounts 4 Change Amount 5 Change both

INTER-ACCOUNT TRANSFERS.

Bank of Scotland
Standing Order Mandates Held

To	Next Date	Unit	Amount
Upland Electricity Monthly	30Jan85	30Nov85	32.40
British Gas Monthly	06Feb85	06Sep85	31.15
Midshires Council Monthly	01Feb85	01Mar85	57.81
General Life Ass Monthly	31Jan85	N.A.	22.45
United Auto Ins Quarterly	15Mar85	15Jun85	26.95

Key 7 More Mandates
9 Finish

STANDING ORDER DETAILS.

Bank of Scotland
A/C No 00428407 Statement

Date	Details	Amount	Balance
11Jan85	398410	-45.00	226.97
11Jan85	P B Oil	8.75	235.72
12Jan85	398412	-27.42	208.30
13Jan85	Keycard 90375603	-100.00	108.30
14Jan85	Bank Giro Credit	47.52	155.82
14Jan85	398413	-29.90	125.84

Key 7 Earlier Items
9 Finish

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

Bank of Scotland
BANK OF SCOTLAND Cash Management
148 High St Southampton
ACCOUNT: 00101407 CURRENCY: STG

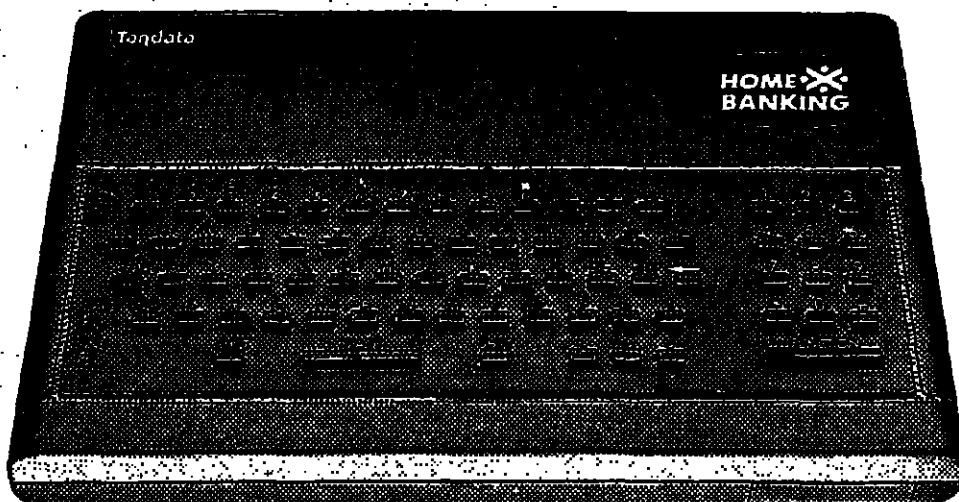
Ledger position on first lines
Debitments expiring and cleared
position on second lines

Date	Credit	Debit	Balance
14Jan1985	-1.456	504	1,733
15Jan1985	-389	750	2,094
16Jan1985	0	1,048	1,117
17Jan1985	0	2,884	1,767
17Jan1985	0	0	2,094
17Jan1985	0	327	2,094

Key 9 Finish

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ON PRESTEL FINANCIAL SERVICES

SPORTING DIARY Simon Barnes

Playing both sides

The House of Commons has fallen a little short in its attempts to find 15 men good and true for a rugby team. It takes on the Irish MPs' team on the morning of the England-Ireland international on March 30.

Down and up

Like so many other good things in life, the Chinese are thought to have invented skiing. Now they are learning modern skiing techniques from the Austrians in exchange for coaching in table tennis.

Spelling it out

Self-proclaimed Neapolitan witch Rita Moccia says she was with the help of a talisman, who restored Napoli's Argentinian football ace Diego Maradona to form.

In Tickenham's centenary season the Rugby Union chaps were some what twitchy when they listened to the post-tour speech by Matthew Stone, captain of the New Zealand Two-Seven Schools.

Goal postponed

VS Rugby and Sudbury are making an impressive challenge for the record number of football postponements. Their FA Vase third round match ended 2-2.

Batty idea

A cricket architect has just embarked on one of the most gruelling tasks a cricket nut has ever undertaken. Gordon Phillips is compiling a complete index to every article ever published in every magazine in the cricketing world.

Arsenal it is

Last week I claimed that the highest number of players from a single club to turn out for England was seven, from Arsenal. What, then, I am asked, about Corinthians, who in two matches, in 1894 and 1895, provided all eleven?



100 years after Gordon's death at Khartoum, Peter Johnson suggests that responsibility for his fate rests principally with the hero of Queen and public himself

The misfit and the Mahdi



Two days later: Sir Charles Wilson's relief force runs the gauntlet of Sudanese fire as it arrives off Khartoum. Right, General Gordon, far from the innocent martyr portrayed by his supporters

A short, stumpy woman garbed in black walked unannounced and unattended into the drawing room of Osborne Cottage in the Isle of Wight. Mary, wife of Sir Henry Ponsonby, and her two daughters had just finished breakfast.

Queen Victoria had driven the quarter of a mile from Osborne to her private secretary's house seeking someone with whom to share her grief at the news received in Whitehall in the small hours of the morning.

Decades of Egyptian misrule in the Sudan prepared the ground for the religious and nationalist magnetism of Mohammed Ahmed, the self-proclaimed Mahdi, "the guided one".

At the tip of a pyramid of mistakes and delay, an obscure colonel was exposed - somewhat hastily - as the architect of a final disaster. Thrust into command of the tiny advance force by the death or mortal wounding of his superiors,

Nevertheless, on the evening of Sunday January 18, 1884, Major-General Gordon boarded the 8 o'clock continental boat train at Charing Cross on his way to Khartoum. Granville bought his ticket. The Duke of Cambridge, army commander-in-chief, held open the carriage door.

There was a dangerous vagueness about Gordon's "instructions". Gladstone was left with the firm impression that his duties extended only to reporting on the situation in the Sudan.

In April Frank Le Poer Power, The Times correspondent in Khartoum, sent a despatch describing the city as "the centre of an enormous rebel camp". This and earlier despatches from Power had engendered public apprehension and wrath in Gladstone.

Wolsley staffed his high command with cronies from earlier campaigns known as the "Wolsley Ring", a policy which led to jealousies, bickering and paralysis of decision on the Nile.

At the tip of a pyramid of mistakes and delay, an obscure colonel was exposed - somewhat hastily - as the architect of a final disaster. Thrust into command of the tiny advance force by the death or mortal wounding of his superiors,

Sir Charles Wilson, an intelligence officer with no experience of battle command, wasted three vital days in reconnaissance and preparation before embarking for Khartoum in Gordon's steamers Borden and Tel-el-Hoween which he found awaiting him at Metemreh on the Nile.

Lord Charles Beresford, commander of the naval detachment, has been blamed for abetting the delay. Fearless, impetuous and persuasive, Beresford in normal circumstances would have been the last to tolerate inaction.

Wilson's small party arrived off Khartoum on Wednesday, January 28, 1885. The city had fallen and Gordon had been murdered two days earlier.

Gordon had conducted a brilliant and epic defence, but, as if guided by his oft-professed death wish, he helped seal his own doom. By proclaiming at Berber in February the abandonment of the Sudan by Egypt he effectively drove wavering chiefs and tribes into the arms of the Mahdi.

Churchill wrote of him: "His moods were capricious and uncertain, his passions violent, his impulses sudden and inconsistent." Lytton Strachey, seeking to topple the pedestals of Eminent Victorians of Gordon by blaming the hero's veering moods on the "dangerous restoratives" of drink.

Gordon's drinking habits in a book published in 1912.

Had Strachey searched more diligently, he would have unearthed support for his case without resting it precariously on the testimony of the discredited Long. Baring wrote 27 years after Gordon's death:

"There is not in reality the least doubt that he drank deeply." Wilfred Scawen Blunt, a contemporary and a Liberal champion of the Arabs, had heard rumours of Gordon's heavy drinking.

One of Gordon's staunchest defenders in this matter, Bernard M. Allen, in Gordon and the Sudan (1931), quotes Lord Esler, at whose house Gordon was a frequent visitor: "It has been said that he failed to do his duty, and he has been called an ineffectual. These accusations are absurdly false."

Allen also reports a conversation in which the daughter of the Rev R. H. Barnes, a close friend of Gordon, asked Lord Kitchener about the rumours of Gordon's drinking. Kitchener described them as "a damned lie".

At noon today, a century after his death, wreaths will be laid at Gordon's statue in Embankment Gardens, London. Tomorrow a service of remembrance in St Paul's Cathedral will salute a Victorian soldier-hero and devout Christian, revered as an innocent martyr.

Patrick Stephens (29.95). © These Newsletters Limited, 1985

Our Crossword Editor offers a basic guide to all who flinch from the daily challenge

Before 1 across take those seven steps down

Thus, "Herodias danced here under the British" misleadingly suggests a possible historical allusion (Herodias was the mother of Salome) whereas in fact the answer is an anagram (the coded warning, or indicator, being "danced") of Herodias, which spells RHODESIA.

maximum of five complete or almost complete anagrams per puzzle. Double meanings. Even the simplest words can have several meanings which can be exploited by the compiler, particularly if they are contradictory.

This year's Championship

The qualifying puzzle for the 1985 Collins Dictionaries-Times Crossword Championship will be published in The Times on Thursday, February 7. Entries must be postmarked not later than Friday, February 15.

Queen's Hotel (300) Sunday, April 21; Bristol, Grand Hotel (170) Sunday, May 19; London A, Saturday, June 1; London B, Saturday, June 2; Park Lane Hotel (300 each). The national final will be held at the Park Lane Hotel on Sunday, September 8.

David Hart

Nothing short of victory

Since the beginning of the miners' dispute the moral centre of the argument has obliged the Government and National Coal Board to remain on the defensive and face Scargill down. Despite continuing negotiations throughout the summer and too many coal board concessions, the Government managed to hold its ground.

In response, attacks of an unprecedented ferocity were made on the police and the working miners which Scargill and his colleagues did nothing to prevent. The confrontation at Orgreave was the great set-piece battle. Scargill lost. Now the will of the union leadership seems largely exhausted.

Last week, while Scargill was crowing that the decline of the post was his doing, his union was the collapsing around him. The schism in the union will not be repaired by delaying the delegate conference called to rubber-stamp the decision to expel Nottingham, nor by negotiation to settle the strike.

These men have made it clear that they do not want to destroy their union, or even to break away from it. They do want to destroy Scargill. Their dream is to so organize themselves and other areas that the breakaway union will eventually reunite, embracing the entire NUM membership.

The Nottingham NUM executive committee, where the schism began, is controlled by working miners. Things are much more complicated for men in other areas, notably the Midlands, where, with only 980 men now on strike out of a total workforce in 12,700 all but a handful of the union branches are controlled by pro-Scargill strikers.

The dissatisfaction with the union leadership expresses itself most clearly as antagonism to three Scargill proposals for change: The now famous "Star Chamber" rule 51 introduced in July intended to give the NUM leadership power to discipline members at national rather than, as hitherto, at area level.

Scargill's attempt to reorganize union areas to consolidate his dominance of the national executive committee by merging moderate areas into larger groups with less representation. The most glaring example of this is the plan to merge Leicester, South Derbyshire, Midlands and the Power group, representing 23,000 men, to have two instead of the present four NEC representatives. Militant Kent, meanwhile, with 2,000 men, would remain independent and retain its seat. Working miners' groups calcu-

late that the reorganization, if implemented, will result in a loss of six moderate seats and only one militant seat.

Scargill's proposal to institute new national rules to supersede area rules, thus confiscating each area's independence. Each area currently has its own rules and is in effect an autonomous union within the federation of the NUM.

Scargill after 1983 NUM conference decisions as his authority for such changes. The same conference, called for a ballot on pay and pit closures before a strike was called.

Although Scargill backed away from the second and third of these proposals, this week he tried to disguise his retreat with a campaign to restart negotiations. He has only deferred his plans.

With increasing signals even from Scargill that the union wants peace, with the increasing number of men returning to work, with the NUM disintegrating, the pressure on the coal board to negotiate grows every day. It is clear from the confusion this week that some NCB executives have already succumbed. Many commentators believe that the strike will have to be ended by negotiation with Scargill. Any true negotiation now would represent defeat for the coal board and the nation since there would inevitably be further concessions, even if they were disguised in new language.

The time for negotiated settlements is past. Scargill has to agree to the reorganization of the NUM, within the structures set out in the settlement last October with Nacods, the pit deputies' union. He must accept, in advance of the talks and in writing, that the board has the right to manage the industry.

There must be no equivocation. Those who call for bridges to be built so that Scargill can beat an elegant retreat misunderstand the temper of the nation. Scargill challenged the authority of the state; he openly boasted that he would do this to the Thatcher government what the nation had done to the Heath government. He and his colleagues presided over unprecedented violence. The nation wants to see him defeated.

The Coal Board proposals are more than fair. They are still on the table. If Scargill and his colleagues do not have the courage to pick them up, they must be defeated - for the sake of the increasing number of working miners; for the sake of the members of other unions who have refused, despite great pressure from their own leaders, to be conned into industrial action by Scargillite arguments; for the sake of ordinary Britons everywhere who have loyally supported the Government. The nation will not easily forgive those responsible if defeat, whether by compromise or fudge, is snatched from the jaws of victory.

Woodrow Wyatt

Calling up a jobless solution

Twenty years ago full employment, or something near it, seemed more or less permanent. Britain, excluding Northern Ireland, then had 340,000 unemployed. By March 1984 there were more than three million.

Much of the increase is due to restrictive union practices, forcing up wages so that our unit output costs have accelerated way beyond those of our competitors. Some is due to low quality management and some to the effects of international depression, increased oil prices and so forth.

New elements have now emerged making a return to full employment, or even halving the present level of unemployment, a distant prospect. One is the greater number of women in the labour market.

Between March 1965 and March 1985 the number of men classified as employed in Britain (excluding Northern Ireland and excluding the self-employed) fell from 14.4 million to 11.7 million. In the same period the number of women in paid employment rose from 8.1 million to 9 million.

I do not suggest that, if these additional women workers had stayed at home, male unemployment would have fallen by the same figure. Obsolescence of their industries had a bearing on the fall in male employment and it can be argued that the cheaper and more amenable labour provided by women kept some industries viable that would otherwise have collapsed, causing even more male unemployment.

However, the number of women at work, which is growing fast, must have had some impact on the unemployment figures and will have more. It would be neither desirable nor practicable to persuade large numbers of women to stay at home and let their jobs be done by men, but the increase in the number working should make a difference to the way we look at the unemployment figures.

Another phenomenon invalidates a direct comparison between present and past unemployment figures. The early 1960s was a period of an unusually high birth rate, running at more than 900,000 a year and reaching a peak of 980,000 in 1964. For each of the last five years some 900,000 newcomers have been trying to enter a labour market which only 600,000 people have been leaving each year in retirement. Had the retirement figure matched the number of new entrants, unemployment would have been reduced by at least a million.

a demographic upward pressure on unemployment, making the task of containing it, let alone reducing it, harder than it was two or three decades ago. The signs are that unemployment will not increase much in the near future, and may fall a little, but it is uphill work, particularly in view of the reluctance to curb wage demands.

In the year to October 1984 hourly earnings in manufacturing rose by 8.9 per cent in the United Kingdom compared with less than 4 per cent in the US and about 2 per cent in West Germany and Japan. That is doubtless one reason for our inflation rate of about 3 per cent - considerably higher than those countries. Considering the difficulties we make for ourselves it is surprising that unemployment has not risen more than this has.

Eighty-seven per cent of people are employed and doing nicely. That is one explanation for the calm way in which the country takes the unemployment figures: another is that a fairly large and unascertainable number are doing jobs on the fringes, and yet another is that there is no great difference in living standards between being unemployed and working in the lowest paid jobs.

But it is not pleasant to contemplate a figure of around three million unemployed for the next five years or so. Nor need we. The last Macmillan administration foolishly abolished National Service, making us unique among our European partners. Opinion polls indicate that a substantial majority is in favour of it in some form, not merely to improve our defences but to make young people more aware of their duties to their country.

The Government should bow to this popular feeling and reintroduce National Service. For a long time after the war the period was two years from the age of 18. There are still about 450,000 males reaching 18 annually; two years' National Service for them would, at a stroke, reduce the unemployment figures by 900,000. It is unlikely that the cost would greatly exceed unemployment, and related benefits. Providing uniforms, equipment and other supplies for a new body of National Servicemen would create more jobs; something that should appeal to those who believe that unemployment can be relieved on a long-term basis by extra government spending. National Service would be a respectable way of reducing unemployment, putting us on a par with other Western European nations. And an unemployment figure hovering at around two million would seem much more tractable than one of three million.

John Grant Chief Dirty Dog



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE TIMES ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 26, 1978

Wherever Scots gather on January 25, the birth of Robert Burns (1759-1796), there the toast will be drunk to his memory. In 1859 The Times reported of the length the centenary celebrations including those in New York and Boston; since then rarely has a year passed without some notice in The Times of the anniversary.

OFFICIAL TURNS FOR COMRADE BURNS

From Michael Binyon

Muscov, Jan 25 "Fair fa' your honest, sossie face, Great chieftan o' the puddin' race", began Mrs Margaret Barclay before plunging the professed knife into the straining haggis.

The pipper looked on, the chef made ready for the ceremonial return to the kitchen and another Burns night began at the traditional fashion but only a few hundred yards from the Kremlin.

Some 130 Scots flew from Glasgow yesterday to drink whisky, sing songs and link arms with fellow enthusiasts from the Soviet Burns society.

They brought with them 250 bottles of whisky, a gift from a distillery, 150lb of haggis, a rather battered Scottish song book, Sergeant Jimmy McCallum, in full pipe's regalia, and assorted kilts, tartans, sporrans and gowns.

This is the fourth year that Scottish and Soviet Burns societies have got together to celebrate the anniversary. On the first occasion, in 1954, they met away by enthusiasm, played a lament on Lenin's mausoleum, while Soviet police looked on in astonishment.

This year it was made clear that such homage would be better performed at a breath-taking ceremony on Friday morning.

Burns is popular in Russia. His poems, according to those who understand both languages, have been translated excellently. His philosophy and spirit, romanticism and feel for the common man (and woman), are much appreciated by the Russians. What is more important, he is deemed to be in tune with Soviet ideology.

Tonight, the spirits flowed freely without a flicker of the customs official's eyelids. The haggis was accompanied by a proper certificate from the Food and Drug Administration, but one asked to inspect it.

Mr William Keith, a butcher renowned in Kirkcaldy, came to ensure his creations were properly honoured and spent this afternoon telling Nikolai, head chef at the Intourist hotel, how to cook it.

Borscht and caviar on eggs are hardly typical Burns night dishes, but the blend reflected the participation of 150 Soviet guests (chosen by the Soviet organizers).

On Saturday, after some sightseeing, the Scots return home. The Russians will have to wait another year for whisky in such jovial quantities.

Teachers' pay

From Mr C. E. H. Wade

Sir, The senior teacher whose extensive professional commitment was analysed in The Times of January 18 is currently paid a salary of £13,500 per year, arguably about half his true worth.

Under the suggested restructuring, intended to reward dedication and excellence in the classroom, he would become a principal teacher with a maximum pay of just under £13,000 per year, a drop of some £500.

Is it surprising that most teachers are somewhat sceptical of the new proposals?

Yours faithfully, C. E. H. WADE (Headmaster, Bramston School, Witham), 22 The Colliers, Heybridge Basin, Maldon, Essex.

'Restructured' rugby

From Mr Colin Bilyard

Sir, John Daniel, Headmaster of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford (January 15) wonders why talented schoolboy rugby players are lost to the game after leaving school.

Part of the problem lies in the fact that many elite young sportsmen, and particularly young rugby players, regard themselves as superstars, waiting to be approached, rather than themselves seeking out clubs to join. I have noticed this attitude develop in the last 10 years or so, which fits in with my belief that allegiance to one's team, club, county, country dwindles dramatically after a successful postwar era during which team spirit came first and self-satisfaction second.

The rest of the problem can be attributed to the fault in our educational system which fails to provide that vital link between school/university and the work environment; a link which, in profile format, should describe not only academic prowess, but sporting, cultural and social honours too.

This "profile" would be distributed by the school careers master to local senior clubs, who should welcome the opportunity of inviting new talent to join their clubs. From there, the climb to national representation is open to debate, but at least the young player has been placed on that vital rung.

Yours faithfully, COLIN BILLYARD, Apple Acre, Hill Brow, Liss, Hampshire.

Down to earth

From Mrs Philip Sturrock

Sir, I was recently given a sachet of bath salts bearing the following promise: "In its native jungle the gardenia perfumes the air with its exotic fragrance. These luxurious bubbles release the glamorous scent of the flower itself."

Imagine my disappointment when I read the contents: sodium carbonate, bicarbonate, sodium tripolyphosphate, anionic, non-ionic surfactants, perfume compound, colouring.

Yours faithfully, SUSAN STURROCK, 52 Hill Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, 13 January.

PRIORITIES FOR PAY

It is hard luck on the local government manual workers. Their wage negotiations come bargaining season, when the "going rate" has traditionally been a matter of intense political sensitivity. It has long been a grievance with them that, low paid as they are, their claims are resisted to set a good example to other groups who in the nature of things tend to do a little better as the season goes on, season after season. This year, as well as trying to squeeze a 4 1/2 per cent offer as far up towards 5 per cent as they can, they sought to retreat from their invidious position at the head of the queue. They suggested April, when other large public service groups' negotiations also fall due.

It hardly matters just now. For the immediate future and perhaps longer the fall in inflation has made leapingfrogging less significant, and cash limits have stiffened the employers' side regardless of date. The manual workers' award a year ago was not greatly blighted by the settlements that followed. Whatever case there may be for moving them right to the back of the queue, into the summer, it would not be wise to agree to a date in April which would have the effect of creating a block of more than three million health and council workers, teachers and civil servants all in a position to act in concert.

Cash limits have taken much of the old mystique out of each percentage point in public sector negotiations. The manual settlement is sure to be above the three per cent which the Government has set as target (for the third year running) for its own employees and written into cash

limits. The gap is small enough to be filled by savings in manpower and overtime. Each worker is offered an increase equal to the rate of inflation or a little better, but slightly below the current national rise in earnings, now fairly steady at 7.5 per cent. But yesterday's breakdown of talks, the nearest approach to outright conflict for four or five years, is a warning sign of pressures building up.

Since the Clegg bonanza in the early eighties, the public services have generally seen their earnings rise less fast than those in the private sector - by just under five per cent last year compared to more than nine per cent. Even so, average gross earnings are still higher in the public than in the private sector. But generalization covers a multitude of cases. In the private sector too, manual workers have scarcely kept pace with inflation over the last five years (and in addition have been more at risk of losing their jobs altogether). Civil service pay has fallen 20 per cent behind that of other white collar workers since 1950 - but the success of the Government's efforts to whittle down numbers means that there is scope within cash limits for a rise above the ordained three per cent.

The general picture is one of widening differentials, in the public as well as in the private sector, where premiums on skill have risen, and higher profits have generated many boardroom rises. Last year's awards for top public servants, including doctors, judges and military top brass were sealed down by the Government from the recommendations of the review bodies, and delayed by its imposition of phased awards.

But they still left them in a position to build this year on salary levels between 6.5 and 7.6 per cent higher than a year before. Doctors, like policemen, have done better than almost any other group in recent years; even teachers, for all their perceived grievances, have doubled the gap between their pay and that of manual workers over the same period.

But already a more significant trend is becoming apparent: wages are beginning once again to forge ahead of productivity and of wage inflation in other industrial countries. Unit wage costs in manufacturing, which were improving at an annual rate of more than 8 per cent a year ago, were down to 2.5 per cent last autumn. The truth is that once again the cost of rising wages is holding back our recovery, in private and public sectors alike, directly or through taxation. We may be doing better than we used to, but our competitors are doing better still.

Inevitably, example and comparisons matter here. Whenever the pay of upper-echelon public servants is in question, plausible arguments can be put forward for paying well to attract candidates of the highest standard, or to minimize defections to the private sector, or to reward sacrifices made in the past. Considerations such as these have their force, and there are periods when they should predominate. But at this moment the urgency of controlling public expenditure and maintaining our international competitiveness is paramount, and should dominate the Government's thinking about its servants' pay.

Judging the Lords for ourselves

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm, RN

Sir, I was saddened but not surprised by the way in which The Times (and other newspapers) have reported the historic event in the House of Lords yesterday.

Taken as entertainment (which was the category in which it has been classed), of course it was a flop - and will become progressively so as the experiment proceeds.

But it was not intended to be entertainment. One has only to compare what those of us who had opportunity to watch the debate heard and saw with what we now see reported in the press to realise that a very important step has been taken in the democratic process. We, the people, now have a far greater opportunity to form our own opinions on what, in the Lords, is wise and what is not.

We are that much less dependent on the political commentator to decide what is or is not worthy of report. Henceforth he must know that his readership is in a better position to form their own perspectives and to judge his analyses accordingly.

As a classic example of an early failure to recognise this truth, the only heavy type used in your parliamentary report on yesterday's debate was devoted to the demonstration in the gallery. Yet we, the viewers, had seen for ourselves how this undemocratic incident totally failed to interrupt the democratic process.

If the press do not realise the significance of this important new dimension and react to it responsibly, they will only have themselves to blame.

Your obedient servant, PETER KIMM, 69 New Britain Road, Emsworth, Hampshire, January 24.

From Mr Patrick Ide, Sir, Let me declare an interest. I am a theatrical, involved with presentation and production.

After watching the stimulating and informative televised presentation of the House of Lords in debate I could only pay it the sincere compliment: "Can we get the touring rights?"

Yours faithfully, PATRICK IDE, Garrick Club, Garrick Street, WC2.

From Lieutenant-Colonel S. P. M. Sutton (ret'd), Sir, That's settled it. All thoughts of abolishing the House of Lords must be abandoned forthwith.

It is the House of Commons with all its vulgar ill-mannered brawling and attempts to disrupt the proceedings of the House of Lords which should be abolished.

Let's get on with it now and form a Government from the House of Lords!

Yours faithfully, S. PETER M. SUTTON, 70 Rosehill Drive, Bransgore, Christchurch, Dorset.

Surrogate motherhood

From Mr and Mrs Arthur Dark

Sir, Are we alone in finding the silent silence of the bishops of the Church of England on the subject of surrogate motherhood an ironic and painful contrast to their willingness to comment on party political issues? The ability in certain circles to contemplate surrogacy is surely a milestone in our society's now rapid retreat from Christian values.

That we can seriously entertain the prospect of commercialising a combination of greed on the one hand and self-centredness on the other, or that we are prepared to ride roughshod over the deep-seated human instincts that bind a mother to the baby her own body has produced, is surely, totally abhorrent to the Christian tradition?

This is quite apart from the consequences that could accrue if the baby is born with some physical or mental deficiency which make it unacceptable to the putative parents or that the natural mother decides not to honour the contract.

Everything about this arrangement is repugnant and, in the end, destructive of our humanity. Yet, from our bishops, who are supposed to proclaim the inherent dignity and sacredness of human nature, nothing.

No doubt we shall shortly be hearing from bishops who find some kind of good in the arrangement.

Yours faithfully, ARTHUR DARK, ENID DARK, 74 Breakspere Road South, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

People and places

From Mr Alec Clifton-Taylor

Sir, There is a signpost in Lincolnshire which reads New York 2, Boston 11.

Just one mile between them! Yours faithfully, ALEC CLIFTON-TAYLOR, Clareville Grove, SW7, January 21.

Chippendale collection

From the Director of Art Galleries, City of Leeds

Sir, Nostell Priory houses one of the three pre-eminent collections of documented Chippendale furniture, most of which was specially ordered for the rooms in which it still stands. Furthermore, the original bills, letters and several manuscript designs survive, affording unambiguous proof that the pieces are indeed from Chippendale's workshop.

His tradesmen not only equipped the state apartments but supplied furniture for servants' rooms, the kitchen and even hung wallpaper; this range greatly enhances the historic interest of Chippendale's Nostell commission. It would in fact be difficult to exaggerate the

Looking after London's homeless

From the Chairman of the Greater London Council

Sir, I have just returned from the late night/early morning "soup run" to London's increasing homeless. It is a disquieting fact that almost every night nearly 20,000 people compete for a floor space or else count their blessings on obtaining a hostel bed.

Alas, those beds, too, are becoming less and less available. I am told that in the last few months another 600 beds have disappeared in Greater London.

Of course, there are diverse reasons and causes for absolute homelessness, many and varied categories of homeless persons there are enormous public good will and selfless voluntary aid and public service, but it seems to me, in the cold light of the morning, that it is worse than it was eight years ago.

Surely we can all do more to help the street alcoholist, the mentally sick and perhaps above all, the "sturdy poor", who are young and rootless.

Count Rumford's soup

From Dr D. E. C. Eversley

Sir, I was wondering how long it would take for one of your correspondents (January 17) to mention Count von Rumford, Sir Benjamin Thompson (1753-1814) was one of the greatest innovators of his time and has been almost completely neglected in Britain (except for W. J. Sparrow's Knight of the White Eagle, published in 1964). Harold J. Liversidge's reprinting his collected works about 15 years ago and there is an extensive German literature about his social work in Bavaria during the war years.

His only monument is to be seen, prominently, in the English Gardens in Munich, capital of the kingdom which bestowed the title of count on him. (His British knighthood dates from 1784 and recognised his services in his native North America, and as under-secretary for the colonies).

Soldier, engineer, social investigator, he is principally remembered as a scientist. He founded the Royal Institution in 1799. Given his early work on heat and energy, it is appropriate that later generations should recognise his ingenuity in devising a high-calorie cheap diet. (The word itself is of much later date: Thompson developed a "caloric theory" but without expressing a measure.)

Prescription of drugs

From Dr Michael Wilson and others

Sir, Misunderstandings appear to exist at the highest level on the true nature of the regulations being proposed to limit the range of medicines available to NHS patients.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr D. Acheson (January 14) refers to "the final list of medicines to be retained" and the President of the Royal College of Physicians, Professor R. Hoffenberg (January 15) states "an appeal mechanism should exist through which a non-listed product might be considered for inclusion".

At a meeting with the Health Minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, on January 10, however, we were informed for the first time that the real proposal was for a schedule to be added to the NHS regulations listing those medicines which by law would be no longer prescribable by general practitioners on the NHS. Such a "blacklist" will fail. It will

To this end, before the beginning of spring, the Council will present an action paper which, I believe, will not only help the acute London problem but indicate a line of approach which most City leaders in Britain will endorse.

I believe that this paper will suggest ways and means of acquiring traditional hostel space, funding of necessary staff and possible additional help to the voluntary agencies which are at the limit of their financial resources. Without entering a pro or anti-GLC lobby, I am entitled to ask where would the London Borough of Camden be without a contribution of £1.1m from the GLC to help it fight homelessness.

It would be morally despicable to wait for warmer weather to ease us into forgetfulness. I have the honour to be, Yours faithfully, ILLTYD HARRINGTON, Chairman, Greater London Council, 1 The County Hall, SE1, January 22.

The great majority of Victorian books on domestic economy, as well as those on poor relief, mention Rumford's soup, not always by name. If he was later relegated to oblivion, it was because some authors used his calculations to prove that the poor starved because of their mismanagement of their affairs, especially the purchases of unsuitable food in small quantities.

Like his contemporary, Malthus, he is remembered for the use people made of his ideas, not his benevolent intentions. Malthus specifically rejected Rumford's soup (by name, Everyman ed., vol II, p. 232) because, if the poor were obliged to live on such food, this would force down the price of labour, and finally pauperise the majority. He allows its use only as an emergency measure in times of distress, in "public institutions".

William Cobbett reviled the concoction, but it is worth recalling the origins of the soup, and the subsequent debates, at a time when cuts in social benefits are again under discussion, and it's only too likely that Rumford's recipes will contrasted with the expensive and useless feeding habits of poor families.

Yours faithfully, DAVID EVERSLEY, Hummersons, Cottered, Buntingford, Hertfordshire.

fail because no list imposed centrally by law can take into account all the clinical needs of all NHS patients.

These proposals will bring unnecessary hardship and suffering to those who cannot pay. We need positive action to reduce the drugs bill - action which will encourage locally agreed lists of medicines with the flexibility for doctors to prescribe outside those lists if an individual patient requires a particular drug.

As this is what happens in many hospitals, why does the Royal College of Physicians want to deny this right to patients seeing their general practitioner?

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL WILSON (Chairman), P. F. KIELTY, P. J. ENOCH, W. G. A. RIDDELL, J. A. RIDDELL (principal officers), General Medical Services Committee, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, WC1, January 17.

Catholic directions

From Dr John A. H. Wylie

Sir, The feelings expressed in your columns by Father Michael Murphy (January 19), and not infrequently, by others of the Roman obedience, implying the loss of direction to Catholics, is echoed by similar confusion amongst those of like mind in the Church of England. (I mean the Church of England and not that faintly ridiculous relic of Empire, the Anglican Communion).

The rap of our liturgy, especially the outlawry of Sursum Corda, has been accepted with unseemly haste by many Anglican Catholics, largely because a high proportion of our priests are non-graduates and therefore prone to theological and liturgical illiteracy.

But a very few bishops consecrated in recent years have, moreover, betrayed the tradition of the Church of England by, inter alia, espousing causes alien thereto, as the use of unacceptable biblical translations and, most damaging of all, the "ordination" of women to the diaconate and sacred priesthood.

Would that his Grace of Canterbury were as valiant for Catholic truth as his Holiness John-Paul p.p. II.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, JOHN A. H. WYLIE, 9A Portland Place, Kemp Town, Brighton, Sussex, January 19.

Round pounds

From Mr Peter Burton

Sir, One cannot help but feel that, unless the Government manages to permanently halt the downward slide of the pound, Mr Griffiths (January 19) will shortly experience as acute a sense of loss over the pound coin that many felt over the demise of the half-crown, which used to be considered the ideal tip.

I remain, yours sincerely, PETER BURTON, 1 Kingfield Court, 21 Kingfield Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, January 19.

Oswald a solution will be found to the problem of keeping this illustrious collection intact. It would be tragic if these Chippendale masterpieces were uprooted from their original setting to aggrandise museums; such an outcome, while technically saving these treasures for the nation, would be a sad defeat, a long-stop contingency.

Although the final decision rests with Lord St Oswald and his advisers, let us hope that every effort is made to protect the Chippendale contents on which Nostell's reputation as a unique treasure house largely rests.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER GILBERT, (Director of Art Galleries, City of Leeds), Temple Newsam House, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

LATIN TRAPS

Pope Paul VI's visit to Bogota in 1968 was the first papal visit to America in history. Since then papal travels have become almost commonplace. Pope John Paul's visit to Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad will be his sixth visit to Latin America. Communications get easier and the habit of using them is acquired more quickly than international understanding is increased.

Besides their other purposes, papal pilgrimages might serve to deepen our knowledge of the social and political state of the countries visited.

We in western Europe have our prejudices; we believe that Latin America is an overwhelmingly Catholic region - over half the world's nominal Catholics - and we believe too that the Church there was until recently on the side of an indefensible status quo; many progressive European Catholics and unbelievers are admirers of "liberation theology", which they consider a Latin American innovation. The old Black Legend of the evils of Latin Catholicism and a most imperfect knowledge of the region's history and politics are mixed with a concern for the region's poor.

Latin America may contain over half the world's nominal Catholics, but the Catholic Church is far weaker there in every sense than such a vague statistic would indicate. The region was patchily catechized; it does not produce enough priests. Urbanization and concomitant secularization, both well apparent at the time of Pope Paul VI's

visit seventeen years ago, have been galloping forward since.

The Catholic response has often been tardy and inaccurate and the fastest growing Churches among the Latin American urban poor are the pentecostal Protestant sects.

Not only Latin America far less Catholic than Europeans believe, the history of Church-State relations is more complex; it is not the simple case than in the past two decades a powerful Church has abandoned an intimate alliance with the State and those who control it in favour of a new alignment with the poor. The historic enemy of the Church in Latin America was liberalism, which often dominated politics and gave the Church a bad time when it did so. There are strong liberal currents in Latin American politics that have always sought to exclude clerical influence and will continue to do so. Christian Democrat parties have not been noticeably successful in Latin America.

The three republics on the Pope's itinerary illustrate both the inaccuracy of many commonly held ideas about Latin America and, in the case of Peru particularly, acute problems that do not have simple solutions. The Church has never been particularly strong in Venezuela and at one time Antonio Guzman Blanco even toyed with the idea of a local Church on the Anglican model headed by himself - and is not particularly strong now; the local Christian Democrats were soundly beaten in the last election. Ecuador's Church-State conflicts were par-

ticularly acute, and although the present government is conservative, the victories of anti-clerical liberalism are many and irreversible. Both republics are democracies, and though they have their problems, few of their citizens want to follow the route of their Nicaraguan neighbours. Both show that substantial social progress can be made in Latin America within the pluralist political system, though both show also that this attracts little of the rest of the world's attention.

Peru's problems are far more intractable than those of Venezuela or Ecuador. The Peruvian economy has been one of the hardest hit in all Latin America in the current cycle of debt and recession. Among the roots of its Sendero Luminoso guerrilla movement are not only the frustrated expectations of the 1968 revolution, but also Manichaean habits of thought that these fundamentalist revolutionaries share with that Christian heresy: they divide the world into good and bad, and they have no doubts about who are the good and who are the bad. Such simple certainty can in Latin America just as elsewhere lead to the most bloody confusions. Pope John Paul has distinguished between concern for human rights and "an exaggerated interest in the wide field of temporal problems" which he condemns in liberation theology. His visit to Peru will be the most-testing stage of his tour, the country where an orthodox message is most needed because some are least disposed to receive it.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

For about half a generation the fashion has been in virtually all the churches to make religion easier by gradual degrees, in the belief that unnecessary barriers stood in the way of the religious life appealing to ordinary people. Cranmer was too obscure and archaic; the Authorized Version too intimidating and remote; the Latin of the Roman rite held the people at bay; "petty rules and regulations" were in general the scapegoat for what was in reality a profound failure of nerve on the churches' part. Rules and regulations tend towards definition and identity, as does a distinct type of internal language.

It is not surprising that these relaxations were accompanied by a so-called identity crisis in the life of institutional religion. The more compatible with the secular, culture the churches became, the more interchangeable the language of church liturgy and television soap opera, the less could they expect the strong allegiance of their members. And there was no greater symbol of this spirit of accommodation than the dropping in 1966 of the Roman Catholic rule requiring the faithful to avoid meat on Fridays.

at the time. It had become little more than an irritation for those who observed it, a source of mild nagging guilt for those bound by it who broke it, and the occasion of incomprehension by those not of that obedience who encountered it in others who were. Anglicans have long since forgotten that the Book of Common Prayer enjoins precisely the same observance; and have not yet noticed that the Alternative Service Book of 1980, for all its modernity, declares all the Fridays of the year with obvious exceptions to be "days of discipline and self-denial." But the Roman Catholic custom, not inaccurately abbreviated to "fish on Fridays," could not continue without some reform. It was nonsense to attach the odium of mortal sin to one humble sausage roll, if instead the tables of the faithful groaned with the weight of finely poached best salmon. It had lost the spirit of penance and mortification altogether, and had become the letter of the law which killeth.

In the Roman Catholic Church, at least, this period of relaxation seems to be nearing an end. It was Pope John Paul II himself, it is said, who insisted on Friday abstinence reappearing in the new Code of Canon

Law which he promulgated in 1983. It came back in a softer version, with considerable discretion left to local hierarchies how they handled it. The three hierarchies in the British Isles seem agreed that the right approach, for the British and Irish temperament, is to present a range of penitential options from which each individual may choose. No meat on Fridays is only one possibility.

At the Pope's insistence, the Roman Catholic Church appears to have regained the courage to make demands of its members. There is a shrewd human insight behind this. People do not necessarily respect or appreciate that which is made easy for them. The spiritual life is no walk-over, but a perpetual struggle. The churches have to make it look like an exciting and worthwhile challenge, deserving of commitment, and demanding, at the very least, some inconvenience. And those who follow such a course will have to dare to be a little different, prepared even to be thought a little odd. The whole idea of penance is so unfashionable as to suggest that there may indeed be some merit in it, and our culture has been impoverished by the loss of it.

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QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

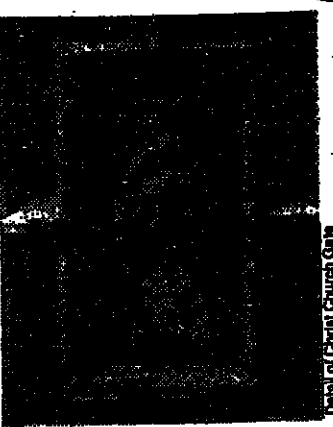
Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 1

As the dollar war rages, a holiday in Britain looks better value than ever. Michael Watkins visits Canterbury

Pilgrimage to the heart of England

The Domesday Book - which I refuse to buy until they do it in paperback - makes pretty solid holiday reading. Well conceived, no doubt; but it's a poor yarn. Give me Chaucer any day, for then I should be led to Canterbury, along the Pilgrims' Way. "From every shire's end of England to Canterbury they wend..." In good company, too, for I would enjoy the Wife of Bath ("who liked to laugh and chat") and the Second Nun. And it would be reassuring, hygiene being what it was in the Middle Ages, to have the Doctor of Physic along.



between the craftsmen and the substance they worked. Three aspects alone give truth to this: the crypt, especially the little chapel of St Gabriel with its 12th-century wall-paintings; the fan-vaulting in the lantern; the nave itself, the purest anthem in stone of man's achievement.

Still the pilgrims come. One million, two million a year? I have no idea; neither does Canon Peter Brett of the cathedral: "It's more than a constant stream," he said, "it's a flood, drawn to the focus of prayer, to the 'Mother of the English'." It affects people in different ways. The impact of such beauty and holiness induces instant conversion in some cases.

Environment shapes our lives, if only peripherally, smoothing out the emotional rough edges. We are different, surely, those of us who dwell beneath gasometers from those who live adjacent to holiness. Show me a holy gasometer, I'll show you a miracle. Mona Green, retired deputy head of Simon Langton's Girls' Grammar School, has lived in the cathedral precinct for 43 years, remembering when German fighters machine-gunned shoppers in the High Street.

Canterbury Cathedral seen from the War Memorial Gardens

guerrilla incursions by candle-tieves. "Then there's the Canterbury beyond the cathedral. When I'm in parts of the city - Christ Church Gate, Buttermarket - I'm reminded of that square in Marrakesh - the snake-charmers, Berbers down from the hills... tourists photographing them.

The money comes in; never quite enough, of course; enough to put scaffolding up, enough to restore the honey-coloured bluish to ancient masonry. While - beyond Christ Church Gate - in Mercery Lane, Longmarket, Butchery Lane, money flows into the coffers of Boots the Chemist, Rumbelows and Woolies, which all appear to do a gobbling trade.

built by Prior Childen in about 1395 as a dormitory to boost pilgrim traffic, which was beginning to decline. Under Clark's Bakery lies a Roman hypocaust and mosaic pavements trodden by legionnaires who laid out their city of Durovernum Cantuariorum in AD 43.

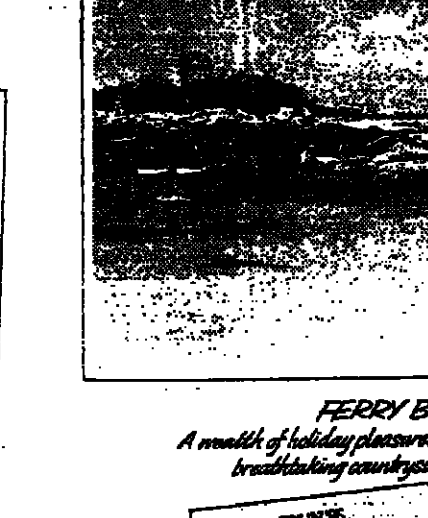
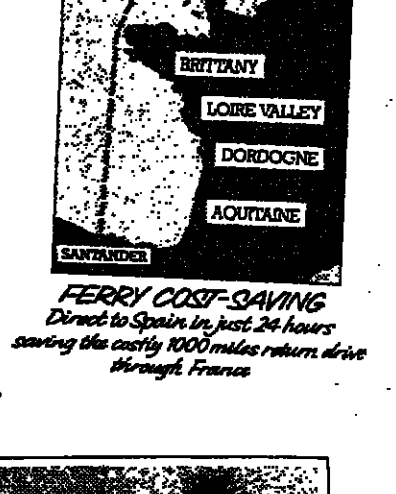
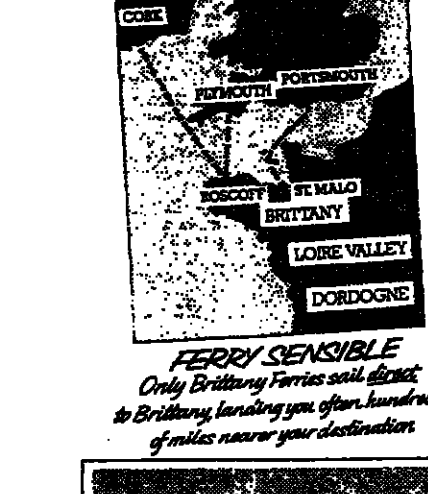
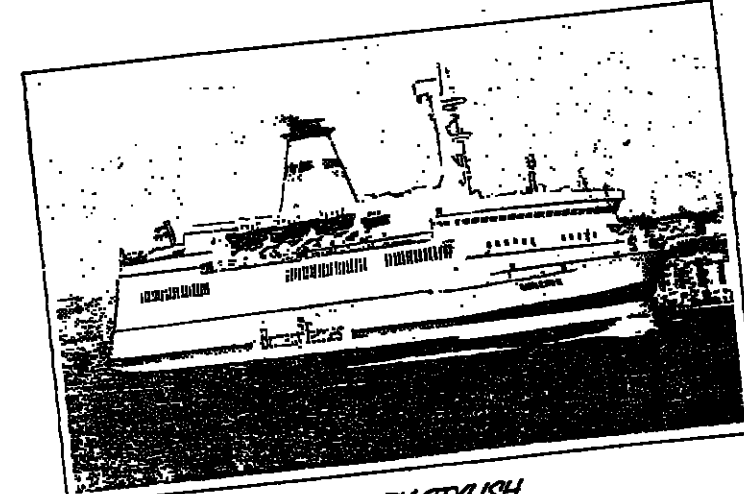
I stayed at the Ebury Hotel, 65 New Dover Road, Canterbury (0227 68433), a small, family-type hotel within walking distance of the cathedral. A double room with bathroom costs £28 a night with breakfast and VAT. The Falstaff Hotel ("established 1403") West Gate, Canterbury (0227 462138) charges £34 a double, including breakfast. A double room from Flight West England Tourist Board, 1 Warwick Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TA (0882-40766).

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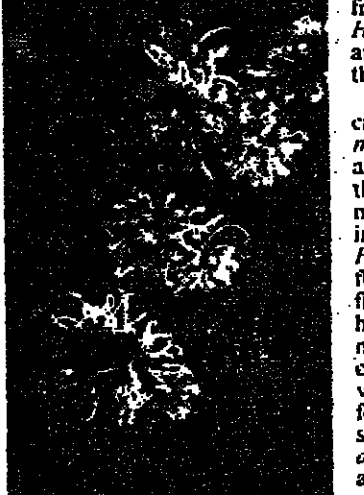
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IN THE GARDEN Winter delights of witch-craft

Hamamelis is a delightfully attractive winter flowering genus which not only stands competition with other flowering plants but is also beautifully scented. During January and February this large shrub, its leafless branches covered with unusually shaped blooms, has no equal.



from its flowering attributes. H. pallida is said to be a hybrid and not a form of H. mollis, but this has yet to be proven. H. x intermedia is a hybrid, a cross between H. japonica and H. mollis. The habit is intermediate between the two parents and the flower colour varies, which makes this plant worthy of inclusion in any list.

Witch-hazel, to give the common name is not really demanding in conditions it likes. It needs a good soil, but if it is too rich the plant will often produce too much growth to the detriment of flower. If the soil's humus content is low, put it right before planting. Choose a well drained site and try to plant away from heavy, wet, cold clays. If you cannot, prepare a mound and plant into this. Make sure the ground is well broken up so the plant can get into the subsoil as it develops. Once well established, witch-hazel can cope with most soils.

Hamamelis mollis: The sweet-smelling Chinese witch-hazel and training one of the side growths upwards to form a leader. In this case height is as important as width when choosing a site. Remember to position shrubs so they can easily be seen in the winter, but not at the rear of a border because the ground is usually wet and not suitable for tramping on when the plants are in flower.

Witch-hazel flowers are strap-shaped, about 1/2 in long, and usually yellow but there are a few other interesting varieties. They are sweetly and strongly scented and you can be aware of a plant at some yards distance even though you did not know it was there. Flowers are formed in little clusters.

Prudent pruning The aim of pruning ornamental trees and shrubs is to keep them healthy and improve their appearance either in flower or foliage. There is a correct time for pruning and it is important to know the plant flowers on new or old wood, or on wood of the current season's growth.

Witch-hazel plants are not easy to obtain and it pays to look at the bigger nurseries such as Nutcote of Woodbridge, Suffolk; Hilliers of Winchester; Hampshire; Bridgemere Nurseries; Bridgemere, Chesling and Scotts of Merriott, Somerset. Prices vary according to the size of plant but they should be available from £20 each.

Ashley Stephenson

and Le Good ne on the home fre... is going ab... is going to be... Britain's town... looking at the... a reasonable... of the United States... anything like... against the poon... to be a record... during the... months... there is the... by Britons plac... spread this sum... The fall is w... to price rise... holidays, the m... the miners'... last summer's... at home. All o... to a real like... summer season pro... matter how good... weather prov... sandcastles on... They will be... to fight, and some... Stratford, York... much of... in between. If... any indication... they will be doing... and early... making early... holidays an even... for when to go... decide where to... and travel ag... numerous accomm... and brochures... Tourist Authority's... Canterbury... and Reston... is worth looking... at the English... in 1985. Scot... and comparable... to the Scottish... nearest authori... city another's dream... a way of... in cottage gar... has been simpler... thatched gems... poses round the... head on the page... features. English... Clavill... Norfolk NR21... (011) also has separ... and Welsh brochures... Cottages of 34 Elm... Sidmouth, Devon (03... and Heritage of Eng... family Houses, Bl... near Fulbrough, Wes... (0431) 1907987 36... for a wide variety... and larger holid... way to enjoy... is to take to... overways. Blakes... Wroxham, NR12... NR12 SDH (0... 21) offers narrow... on Britain's br... and rivers. Crawford Po...

TRAVEL 2

... and Leslie Gardiner takes the fisherman's bible on a gentle trek around rural Staffordshire

Good news on the home front

The word is going about that 1985 is going to be a bumper year for Britain's tourist industry...

Then there is the fact that bookings by Britons planning to holiday abroad this summer are down...

No matter how good the summer's weather proves to be, few American visitors will be heading for the British coast...

So much for when to go. To help decide where to go, newsagents and travel agencies carry numerous accommodation guides and brochures...

The city dweller's dream of whiling away sleepy summer afternoons in cottage gardens has never been simpler to organize...

Another way to enjoy the countryside is to take to the inland waterways. Blakes Northwick Holidays, Wroxham, Norfolk NR12 8DH...

Shona Crawford Poole



Gene fishing: An engraving from The Compleat Angler (left), the black waters of the Dove river, once one of the finest trout streams and Charles Cotton

Endless solitudes by a river steeped in history

People always complained of the void in these Staffordshire-Derbyshire dales. "Crowd enough for snow," it was warm to me, boy on a bike, head down, corkscrewing on the crests and billows of the moorland sea...

Fifty years of road improvements have done little to smooth out the gristone outcrops and limestone escarpments. Few bicycles now. None at all at the Peacock in Rowsley, where I used to park my Rudge. Whittworth motorbike. The dining-room is immaculate, there is a constant hum of vacuum cleaners in the corridors...

For a car heading into Staffordshire, gradients are still frightful. Heaps of Abraham, Jacob's Ladder, Solomon's Hollow... the tearing map reminds me that it was evangelical country, where open-air Methodism took root and blossomed.

Where the river Dove, powerful and destructive after rain, gathers the black waters of its tributaries and races to a squalid destiny in the Trent. The Compleat Angler by Isaac Walton and Charles Cotton a book all have heard of and few have read.

Walton's part propounds a quiet harmony with nature, but I doubt whether the Ecology Party would have him. Here he is on a vanishing species: "God keep you all gentlemen, and keep the bitch-otter merry and all her young ones too, I am sure there are not more otter-killers."

Cotton's slightly tongue-in-cheek appendix is a tourist guide to the Dove, the river which tinkled through his garden at Beresford Hall - more or less the route you follow if you leave the Isaac Walton hotel at the foot of Dove Dale and walk nine miles upstream

to the Charles Cotton hotel at Harrington. Thousands do. A third of Britain's population lives within 50 miles of Dove Dale and on summer weekends most of them are ahead of you, queuing to cross the stepping-stones. Out of season the numbers drop dramatically. On a damp Monday in spring Cotton's "endless solitudes" press in, and in a four-hour walk I meet four people.

One angler has managed to get his car with the Visitor to Britain sticker down into Milldale. Does the name Isaac Walton ring a bell? "Yeah, Joker got clobbered with an apple. Invented gravity."

But the fishermen who are weekending in our hotel scorn the rivers which, when The Compleat Angler came out in 1653, were the finest trout streams in England. They spend their days on water-board and canal-leader reservoirs which Walton never knew.

Did the trout once catapult themselves at the mayfly all along the dales, or were they only spots before the eyes of a boy dizzy with arduous cycling?

From the array of prohibitions along the footpaths - Private Water, Positively No Angling, Trespassers Will Be Shot - the fish too are an endangered species.

That this corner of England was a last refuge of now-extinct fauna is suggested by the place-name: Beresford Dale ("Bear's Ford"), Wollscote Dale, Wildboerclough. The civic crest of Derby is a deer and that of Buxton a buck, but some say that is punning heraldry.

Sparrowlee, memorable to me as a halt on the Manifold Valley Light Railway, where you made another nine-mile pilgrimage through karst canyons behind the green saddle-tanks of a narrow-gauge locomotive. At Sparrowlee Halt no one alighted and no one got on; nor at Beeston Tor (a sheepfold), nor at Thor's Cave (bones of valley folk who arrived 7,000 years too early for the train), nor at Ecton (abandoned copper mines) nor at Wettonmill (a mill in ruins).

As you pulled away from each halt on the evening train the single station lamp went out. Eventually the lights went

out for the whole route and now you can walk and drive on Tarmac, through the tunnels and all.

Across the Dove near the former terminus at Hulme End, where George Eliot's Loamshire (Staffordshire) faces her Stonyshire (Derbyshire), the dale leads south to the fishing house with its interwoven Walton/Cotton initials, looking exactly like its illustration in the early editions of The Compleat Angler.

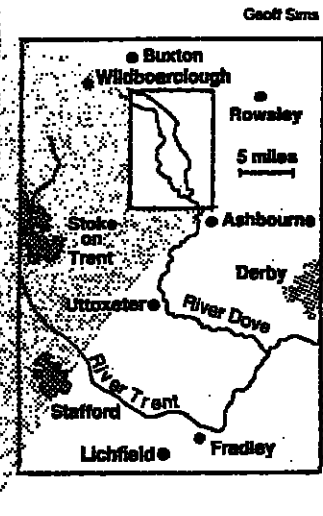
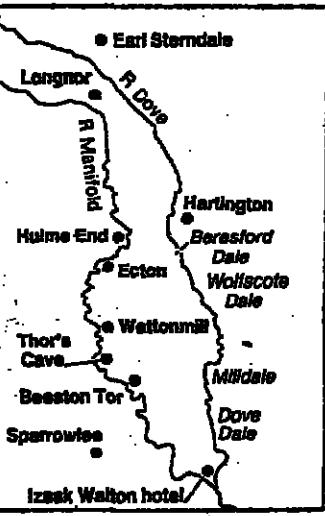
En route to Walton's birthplace, Inter-City trains thunder by - two, in days of steam, spars set fire to the thatch and the cottage was destroyed. Neatly restored, it is now the Isaac Walton museum; and the garden is a riot of those herbs which Walton prescribed in the cook-book section of his Compleat Angler. How to dress your amber or grayling... How to stuff your chavender or chub... but the water-bailiff, who has actually read the book, reckons that honest Isaac with his angling hints and recipes must have killed few fish and may have poisoned many fishermen.

Water Travel, Authority Marina, Wolverhampton (0902 782371); Midland Luxury Cruisers, Stone (0785 6871); Horsedrawn narrow-boat trips from The Wharf, Norbury, Stafford.

The Crewe & Harpur Arms, Longnor (029 883 205) is an inexpensive oasis of good cheer in a bleak moorland village, with a double room and breakfast for £21. The Crown, Stone, is more expensive with a sophisticated cuisine; it offers a double room with breakfast for £36, Mon-Thurs (Fri-Sun, £30).

The Peacock, Rowsley, near Bakewell (0629 733618) a double room with private bath and breakfast costs £43 per person (special two or three-night breaks are £27.50 per person per night). It is elegant, picturesque and ruled with a rod of iron.

Further information about fishing in rivers, canals and reservoirs from Sport & Recreation Council, Hopley Road, Birmingham B16 (021-454 3808). For details of canal cruising hire contact Shropshire Union Cruisers, The Wharf, Norbury, (0785 74299).



parts remained the scaplot of England's gentility. Walking the towpaths of the Trent & Mersey, the Staffs & Wores and the Shropshire Union, we are struck by the airs of the feudal tradition, frequent glimpses of stately homes and deerparks, and coats-of-arms on canal-side inn-signs.

Walton was born at Stafford, probably attended the local grammar school, possibly lodged at the four-storey half-timbered High House which lurches over the main street. His bust, adorned with bull-horns, is in St Mary's church. Five miles from town stands Shallowford Cottage, where he pursued the contemplative man's recreation on a tributary of the Sow, a stream prettier than its name.

Inter-City trains thunder by - two, in days of steam, spars set fire to the thatch and the cottage was destroyed. Neatly restored, it is now the Isaac Walton museum; and the garden is a riot of those herbs which Walton prescribed in the cook-book section of his Compleat Angler. How to dress your amber or grayling... How to stuff your chavender or chub... but the water-bailiff, who has actually read the book, reckons that honest Isaac with his angling hints and recipes must have killed few fish and may have poisoned many fishermen.

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All wrapped up in a skiing complex



"Purpose-built" is a term which either commends a place to you, or puts you off. I am prejudiced against the idea, whether it is applied to a London flat or a ski resort, as there is something in it which robs you of the feeling that you can exercise your individuality. It is almost on a par with computer dating. But I have to admit that when it comes to skiing the purpose-built place has many advantages.

France specializes nowadays in the sort of resort that is 6,500ft above sea-level, with guaranteed snow and a much better chance of good weather than some of the older valley resorts.

Isola 2000 boasts all these advantages, and more. You ski from your doocstep. In the Alpes Maritimes, just one and a half hours by road from Nice, it enjoys a better ration of sunshine than the famous purpose-built resorts of Savoie - Tignes, Flaine, Courchevel, La Plagne - and claims to be sunny for 100 out of the 110 days of the season.

The snow, also, has a different quality from that found in the rest of the Alps, and is consistently light and crisp. It was cold when I was there in January, but the sun shone, and the view towards the Mediterranean from the top of one of the main runs was magnificent.

I was lucky enough to arrive by helicopter and see the whole resort with the pistes fanning out from the centre.

Isola's central mass of buildings is cleverly laid out on several levels. It has none of the cheerless and overpowering features of the apartment block, but manages to incorporate several hotels, restaurants, ski shops and supermarkets in a compact complex which is accessible from different directions.

It takes you a day or two to find your way around, but once you have done so, you will find it convenient and relaxing. You can ski straight up to one of the hotel/apartment blocks, or on to the terrace of one of the restaurants and there are several convenient meeting-places.

The restaurants are not the predictable pizzerias and hot-dog joints. There are informal cafe-restaurants facing the slopes which serve relatively simple food, and there is more than one excellent place to go in the evening for something more extravagant.

The skiing is by no means exceptional, and is better suited to beginners and intermediate skiers than experts. And whatever the brochures claim, Isola is no more immune from queuing than other resorts.

On the January weekend I was there (not high season). Mont Mene, reputedly the most challenging ski area, was closed because of the high winds, and the next most interesting and varied pistes coming down from the 8,500ft peak of Sistrun required a good half-hour's queuing at the bottom.

If all the lifts were open, it would be possible for good skiers to spend a most enjoyable week in Isola, but after that, they might find the skiing limited. For beginners and less experienced skiers, however, the resort is ideal. A variety of blue and green pistes criss-cross just above the centre of the resort, and the long, gentle slopes should do wonders for a novice's confidence.

Isola offers a good variety of non-skiing activities, including skating, riding, mini-motorcycles and ice-driving. Provision for children is excellent, with classes arranged in their own "village".

Isola is evidently most popular at weekends. Two-thirds of its clientele are French and the remainder are mainly Dutch and Belgians. It was the British who were primarily responsible for building the resort in 1970 but they seem to have deserted it in the late 1970s - apparently because the resort virtually ceased to be marketed here. Now there is a campaign to bring them back and there seems to be no reason why it should not succeed.

Rupert Morris

Hotel prices in Isola vary from £245 to £298 per person for a week, including return flight and half-board. Self-catering apartments cost between £103 and £136, depending on the number of people sharing the accommodation - the more, the cheaper. These prices also include return flights, and are per person, for one week. Further information from Neilsens Holidays, International House, 125 Granby Street, Leicester LE1 6PD (0533 553538 or 01-937 8243).

Twickers World advertisement with contact details and services offered.

CHESS

Quick on the draw, slow to win

This year has not started well for the game of chess. As the World Championship saga sagged on in Moscow and the traditional Hastings tournament hobbled routinely through another year, there has not been much excitement or glamour for the spectator.

When Karpov and Kasparov began their world championship match early in September, they were compared with those chess giants of the past, Capablanca and Alekhine. Such a comparison should have been interpreted as a warning, for when those two great players met for the world title in 1927, it was really rather dull.

During one of the games, Capablanca had to be nudged by a match official because he

had apparently fallen asleep while waiting for Alekhine to move.

Neither player fell asleep during the Karpov-Kasparov series. Perhaps their drawn games were on the whole too short to allow anything but the briefest of naps.

What went wrong? Firstly, the attitude of the players must be open to severe criticism. In any better organized sport there would be up before the disciplinary committee, facing huge fines for lack of effort. However, when neither man feels sufficient incentive to come out and fight, there must be something wrong with the rules.

In this case the fault lies in the match regulations which award victory to the first to win

six games. When draws do not count, nothing can prevent a run of them. Between 1951 and 1972, all world championship matches were limited to 24 games. The rule was changed for Bobby Fischer who has since left the chess world, leaving it stuck with his regulations.

Ironically, the change was intended to act as an incentive for players to strive for wins rather than draws. With dynamic characters such as Fischer and Korchnoi playing, the argument seemed sound, but with Karpov and Kasparov the six-win rule has been an incentive only to avoid losing.

And what of Hastings? This year's winner, grandmaster Sveshnikov, is a fine player but, as even he would admit, not of true world championship class. Top players have continued to drift away from Hastings since a decade ago, when the Danish grandmaster Bent Larsen complained about the noise made by the pantomime horse performing on the floor above the playing room.

Hastings has a magnificent tradition, however. Here is a game played during the inaugural Hastings tournament in 1895 between a veteran English master and a young Hungarian who went on to become one of the world's strongest players. It is a fine example of a central attack defeating an assault on the wing.

White: H. E. Bird; Black: G. Maroczy.

Despite his eccentric opening play, White has emerged with a promising attacking position (Black should simply have played 3...PxP 4 BxP N-KB3 with a fine game). His next two moves, however, are over-ambitious.

Black has countered very coolly. Now his counter-attack begins.

With three pieces for the sacrificed Queen, Black has more than enough. The light infantry finish off the attack in splendid style.

24 QdP NfP 25 PdN RfPch 26 Rf2 Rf2 27 Q-N1 B-N7 28 Q-N5 B-N6 29 White resigned.

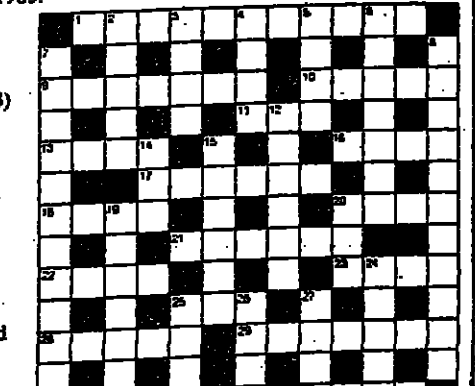
Roland Bannerman

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 554)

Prizes of the Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, January 31, 1985. Entries should be addressed to The Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, February 2, 1985.

ACROSS

- 1 Bad direction (11)
9 Bogey (7)
10 Frenchie over (5)
11 Top myth drama (3)
13 Muscle (4)
16 Muddle (4)
17 Lace hole (6)
18 Flead (4)
20 Tins (4)
21 Set slight (6)
22 Reservoir (4)
23 Lash (4)
25 Officer's assistant (11)
28 Yellow-green (5)
29 Not straightforward (7)
30 Argue (11)



DOWN

- 2 Fireproof (5)
3 Mesopotamian desert (4)
4 Image (4)
5 Chief (4)
6 French castle (7)
7 Blockage (11)
8 Tins (4)
12 Take too far (6)
14 Tiny (3)
15 Disobeyed (6)
19 Repeated shots (7)
20 Tins with thread (3)
24 Lift up (5)
25 Of aircraft (4)
26 Nutsy fungi (4)
27 Just (4)

SOLUTION TO No 548 (last Saturday's prize concise)
ACROSS: 1 Panbelleiro 9 Egoptist 10 Swamp 11 Ely 13 Away 16 Bier 17 Ethies 18 Oyn 20 Tyro 21 Bohero 22 Olya 23 Posh 25 Yet 28 Igloo 29 Whitlow 30 Opportunity
DOWN: 2 Aloha 3 Her 4 The 5 Easy 6 Inantly 7 Megalopolis 8 Sparrowhawk 12 Locket 14 Yen 15 Throne 19 Egg flip 20 Top

Name:
Address:

BRIDGE

Unusual moves to the fore

The British Bridge League trials enter the final stage this weekend. So far the BBL has only committed itself to selecting the leading pair to play in the Common Market Championship, although obviously the results of the trials will be regarded as the basis for the selection of Britain's team for the European Championships later in the year.

After the second weekend, the leading positions were: A. Forrester and S. Lodge, 162; W. Coyle and B. Shenkin, 158; K. Stanley and R. Smolaki, 115; R. Buzand and J. Reardon, 113; R. Sheehan and B. Myers, 112; G. Calderwood and D. Shek, 110.

The two leading pairs have built up a commanding advantage, and it would be surprising if they should fail to escape the selectors' notice.

Revolutionary new ideas in any form of activity inevitably receive a mixed response. The weird modern systems in bridge provide puzzles for players and writers alike.

These were the East-West hands on one of the boards from the second session of the trials.

East-West Game. Dealer South.

With North-South silent, a normal sequence might be: West, 1 Spade; East, INT; A contract with dubious prospects. But how would you account for this auction?

Did West mis-start his cards? Did East open the bidding out of turn? Or did West think that South had opened one spade, only to find that he had passed?

The solution is less mundane. On this occasion Duncan and Short, the Scottish internationals, were East-West. They play the Precision club system, in which hands of 16 points or more are opened with one club, and a major suit opening promises at least a five card suit. To make life more amusing, they exchange the meanings of Pass and one spade. So one spade merely announces any hand too weak to open the bidding, and Pass promises at least five spades and 11-15 points.

That explains West's Pass. East's decision was a question



of judgement. Knowing that his partner's assets were limited and that the hand appeared to be a partial misfit, he decided that a minus score was more probable than a plus. Events proved him right.

Forrester and Lodge also employ an unusual one club system, in which a Pass promises 11-15 points, and one club 17 points or more. The BBL Trials. Game all. Dealer South.

The bidding began like this:

W N E S
Sheehan Forrester Myers Lodge
17 14 44 (1) 58
19 64 No (2) No
No Double No No

(1) Lodge decides to promote his hand to a one club opening because of its excellent distribution.
(2) A game forcing positive, showing spades.
(3) With all round defensive values Sheehan sees no point in encouraging his partner to sacrifice.

After these early exchanges, Forrester and Lodge sailed into six diamonds, a contract which appeared to depend on the spade position.

Jeremy Flint

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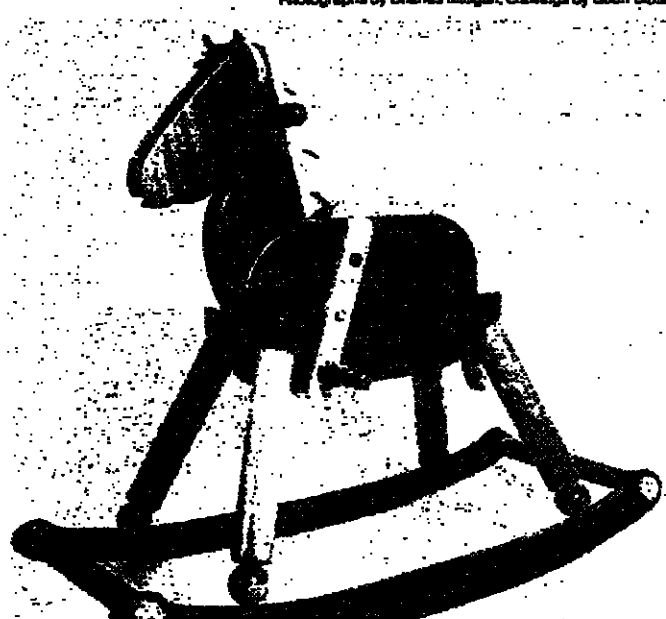
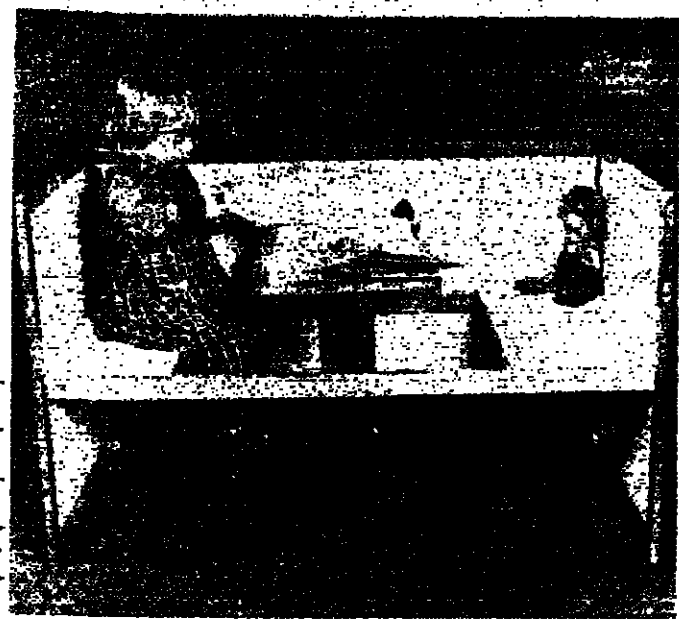
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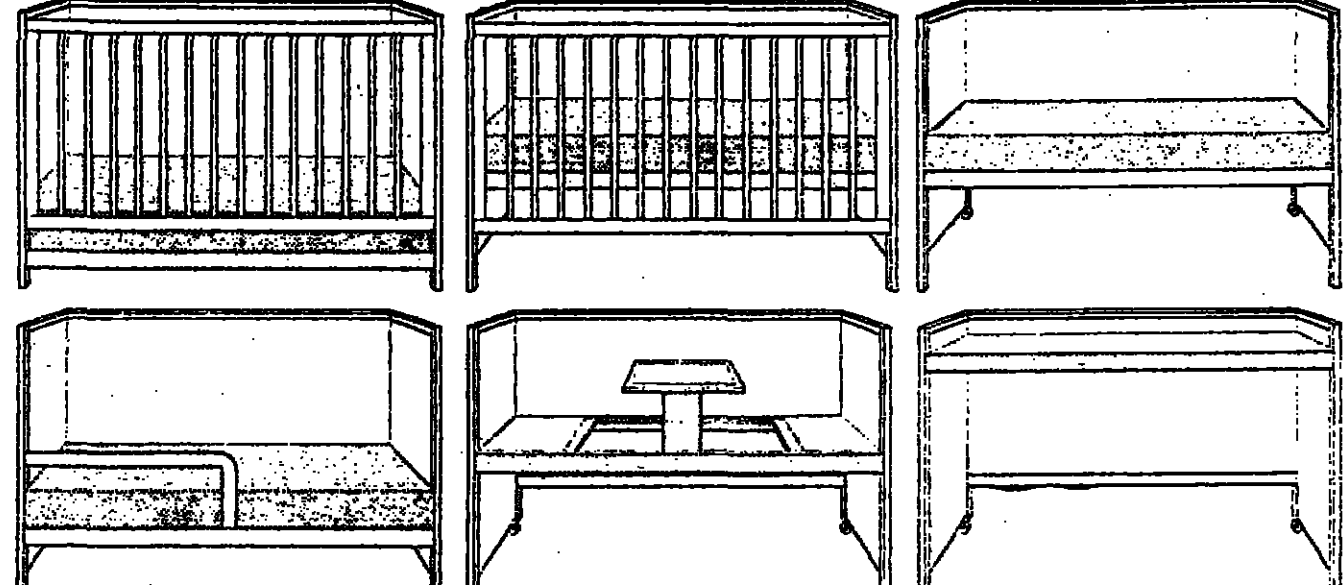
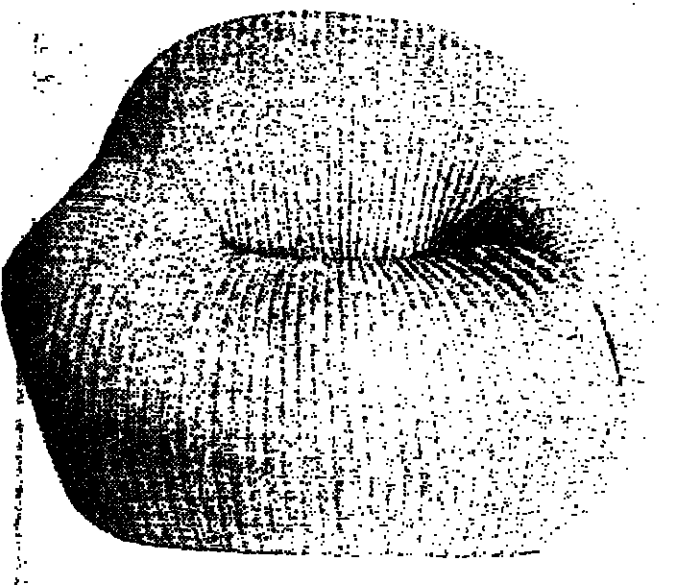
Past, present and future come together in two exhibitions which have just opened in London. One is a visual feast of the finest that Britain can produce, the other a visual onslaught of the 100 best ever products. Beryl Downing reports



ROCK ON: Leonard Peden's rocking horse (above) is a modern version of the traditional toy, beautifully made in Oregon pine with a lacquered finish. At present it is available by mail order only (£125 plus £10 p&p) from Timbo Toys, 7 Taborhouse Road, Draperstown, Derry, Northern Ireland (0648 28188).

ALL CHANGE: The Baby Set (left) is versatile enough for any child; it has been photographed as a learning area and as a junior bed. The drawings show how it can be transformed from a play pen to a cot, to a sofa, a bed, a learning area and finally to a desk. Its overall dimensions are 32in tall, 26in deep and 48in wide and it is available by mail order only (£89.95) from Abracadabra, Fulwood House, Portsmouth Road, Petersfield, Hampshire (0730 892888).

SITTING COMFORTABLY: The Scallop chair by Brenda Saunders (far left) is from her Soft Centres collection. It is upholstered in a rib stitch knitted fabric and will cost about £249, from Fraying Furniture, Davenport Street, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire (0782 811041). Her Parasol range is available from PEL Limited, Oldbury, Warrley, West Midlands (021 552 2377). For a colour brochure, write to the International Wool Secretariat, Wool House, Carlton Gardens, London SW1 (01-930 7300).



A cot that becomes a desk and a chair wearing a woolly jumper are the stars of the Design Review '85 show at the Design Centre. They are two hopeful signs that at least the fortunes of the beleaguered furniture industry may be on the turn. The cot is one of the most innovative pieces of design in the exhibition. Called the Baby Set by Abracadabra, it is made in natural beech and the same self-assembly unit will see a child through several stages of development, first as a cot, then a junior bed, next a learning area, a first desk and finally a sofa. All this for under £90. It has been designed by Brian Trainis, managing director of Abracadabra which markets the cot - the actual manufacturing is contracted out to British companies. Having "semi-retired" to the country from high finance and international trading, he has now found himself with a product on his hands which he is intending to market in 40 countries - he already has an initial order from Japan for 25,000. Knowing something of the timber business, he had never been able to understand why cots were so expensive, so unsafe and so limited

in useful possibilities. So he set about changing all that. He discovered that many accidents occur because of sliding rails and the clips that hold them, so he designed his cot with no moving parts. And when he invented other uses for the same components he tested the prototype on the best possible consumers - a group of children. "There is nothing like sucking and seeing", he says. "We had to adapt

market, he believes, which is flame retardant. New legislation insists that seating for children under 11 has to be flame retardant, but some manufacturers circumvent the regulations by calling seating that does not pass the tests "teenage" furniture. In spite of the fact that there were no specific regulations covering a seat that became a bed, Brian Trainis was determined to play safe. The special mattress does add to the cost, but the price of £89.95 is still attractive for such a versatile kit. The brightest adult furniture in the show is the Soft Centres collection designed by Brenda Saunders in association with the Design Council and the International Wool Secretariat. All the designs are based on everyday objects - among them an ice cream cone, a spinaker, a buttoned double-breasted tuxedo. They have an unexpected originality which will appeal to a rather small section of the conservative British furniture fanciers, but there are two chairs which would fit in with many decorators - Parasol, with a spoked back and attractively blocked fabric to echo the umbrella theme and

Scallop, shaped like a shell and upholstered with a rib stitch knitted fabric. The furniture is not yet in production, but can be made to order. Parasol will cost about £325 for an armchair, £350 for a two-seater sofa and the Scallop chair will be about £249, two-seater sofa £399, in coral or sand. All this is good news for the furniture industry, Diana Smith, manager of the Design Centre Selection, says. Of the 1,500 products on show representing about 40 per cent of all the items submitted for approval during the year, there are 53 pieces of furniture, which she feels represents quite a breakthrough. The other areas that are well represented in the exhibition are stationary and toys. Last year was boom time for the card industry - a record-breaking 130 million cards were sent at Christmas - and big companies are now following the example of the talented one-designer businesses and are updating their ranges by employing bright new illustrators. British toys are always well to the fore in quality and safety,

although Sue Pile, the selection officer responsible for this area, does deplore the popularity of "character merchandising" - the latest being Thomas the Tank Engine, which simply involves another currently popular face being applied to an established toy shape and so limits developments in original design. Leonard Peden's modern version of a traditional rocking horse, though, is quite a different kind of toy - beautifully made in attractively grained Oregon pine, it costs £125 plus £10 p&p. Also well worth close inspection is the kitchen designed by Lewis & Horning of Drury Lane, London WC2 - a most attractive arrangement of functional furniture, a change from the solid built-in look and yet cohesive, which not all "unfitted" kitchens achieve. The whole point of the exhibition, of course, is to promote British design and there are, sadly, some glaring gaps - videos, luggage, microwave ovens, sports equipment, of which we import vast quantities. But there are others where British designers are beating the rest of the world at their own game - Vialbergskis, for instance, which are made in Scotland look inevitably just like

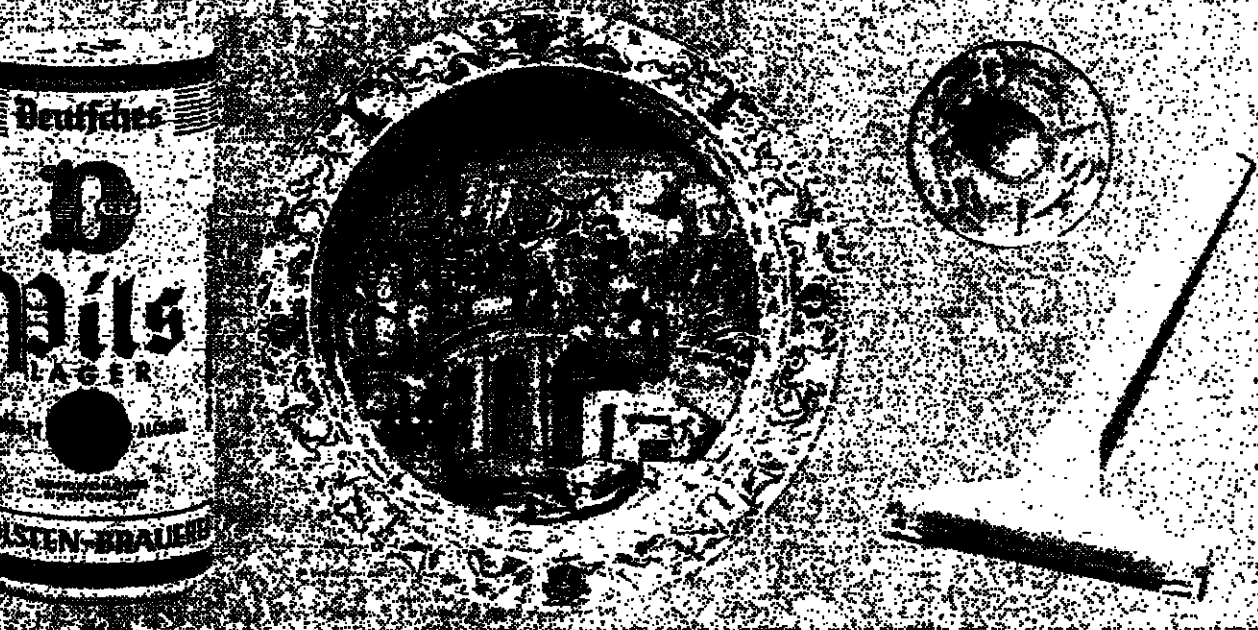
skins but they are built with a revolutionary construction which makes them faster and better and the choice of champions. It pains me to complain about the Design Council, but having chosen such excellent products I wish they would label them properly. The descriptions of the products are all attached to the sides of the displays so you have to crane your neck, or even mount the

the Centre's own shop. It would be nice if they could put this right before the exhibition ends on February 23 or before it goes to Glasgow in March. However, almost all is forgiven I think to the appearance of Design Selection, a new magazine which has been test-marketed successfully and will be appearing on bookstands nationally on March 7 and then bi-monthly, for 75p. The intention is to show those who do not live within reach of the Design Centres in London and Glasgow a good selection of the 8,000 products which are on the Design Index. It is a glossy, colour production which will keep you up to date with all the new products which have won design approval and which don't say buy me because I'm British, but buy me because I'm good. Design Review '85 is at the Design Centre, 28 Haymarket, London SW1 (01-839 8000) until Feb 23; Mon-Tues 10am-6pm, Wed-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 1-6pm. Then at the Scottish Design Centre, 72 St Vincent Street, Glasgow (041 221 6121) from Mar 19-Apr 13; Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm, Sat 9am-5pm.

. . . and all the best from yesterday

Stephen Bayley, director of the Boilerhouse at the Victoria and Albert Museum, may be an inch or two shorter by the end of his latest exhibition. Someone could find his propensity for sticking his neck out irresistible. He calls the new show "The Good Design Guide", and proceeds to include a pair of jeans, a beer can and a Michelin guide. No quarrel there. All excellent functional pieces. But when the exhibition is subtitled "The 100 best ever products", it is clear that an unexploded Bayley bomb is buried here and that the last thing he is expecting is an agreed definition of good design. The Boilerhouse canvassed the opinion of their own trustees, of the Royal Designers for Industry, and of the keepers of the V&A, asking for their nominations for the best products ever made, excluding furniture. John Mallet, keeper of ceramics at the V&A, chose four items from his collection. They are a 16th-century majolica plate, an 18th-century Wedgwood tea canister, a coronation mug designed by Eric Ravilious in 1937 and a 1962 Rosenthal service. "They are not necessarily the most beautiful ceramics in the world", he says. "Some of the best pieces are often made by

people thinking with their fingers, but these all represent a strong, deliberate design element which has been worked out and planned ahead." Nick Butler (RDI), principal of BIB Design Consultants who have specialized in product design for 17 years, approached the problem from a different angle. All the products he chose - among them the Salomon ski boots and the Olympus XA2 camera - represent innovations that changed the course of thinking in the design of the products they represent. "Of course they are subjective", he said of his choices. "One of the good things about design is that it is a matter of personal preference. What makes one design better than another is not just the price being right, the object performing its task well, making good use of material and having a pleasing appearance. It is also a question of chemistry - whether it appeals to the market it is intended to serve. It is a question of producing an object which people recognize as being something they need and desire." All the suggestions submitted were edited and supplemented by Boilerhouse choices - a pair of Levi Strauss jeans because the design has proved durable in the first denims were made in



Star quality: (From left) ring-top can; 16th-century majolica plate designed by Taddeo Zuccaro; Levi jean stud; Bic razor

1850), adaptable and desirable; the Citroën 2CV for its basic geometric shapes; the Bic razor as "a perfect product of industrial culture." "I have always been a little sceptical about the concept of good design", Stephen Bayley says. "Does it mean a successful piece of engineering, a popular commercial item, a thing of beauty?" "The things chosen for the exhibition were widely agreed to be the best of their kind and if you are a student, designer, manufacturer or retailer you

can find something here worth emulating either for its beauty or its ingenious use of material. It is to be hoped that the visitors do not include any display designers. The use of monstrous stained and corroded metal plinths that would not disgrace Steptoe and Son, completely oversteer the exhibits they support and should not be imitated. To be fair, the exhibition was mounted in a hurry. In December Sir Terence Conran gave the go-ahead for a new museum of

industrial design, planned for an 11-acre dockland site which he owns with Lord McAlpine of West Green and the Hon Jacob Rothschild. This three-year, multi-million pound project will be the first museum of its kind in the world and "The Good Design Guide" was slipped into the Boilerhouse schedule as a "preliminary sketch" for the ultimate ideal. Sketching is all very well as long as you do not pretend you are showing a finished masterpiece, but with a "best-ever" tag it is difficult not to give that

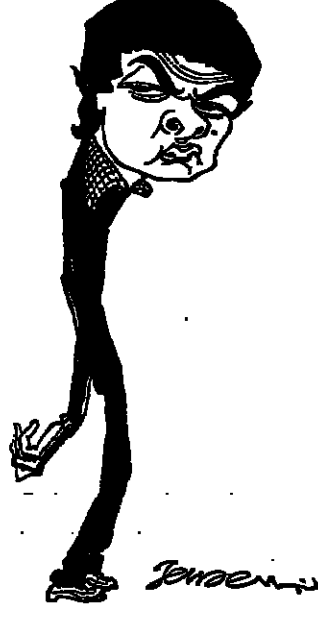
impression. Maybe it's the title that is wrong; maybe the selectors should have been asked to choose a best product from each decade; maybe a little more time and a lot less rusty metal would have carried a good idea to fulfillment. As it is, the best reason for going to the Boilerhouse in the next month is to have a good argument. The Good Design Guide is at The Boilerhouse Project, Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7 (S81 5273) until Feb 22; Mon-Thurs and Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm. Closed Fri.

Arks, collectors' dolls and soft toys from £1 to superb doll's houses built to individual specifications by Bernard Treadwell and costing up to £10,000. The standard of craftsmanship at every price level is high. Quality has been the main aim of the Guild since it was formed in 1955. The toy fair is open from 11am to 6.30pm tomorrow and Tues, and from 10am to 5.30pm on Monday. Admission: adults £1, pensioners and children 50p; free to trade buyers.

SHOPFRONT

Quick on the draw

If you are a cartoon collector you are likely to suffer from a run on the pound due to the new fortnight. An exhibition of work by Times cartoonist Barry Fantoni opens in Barnes on Thursday and another mixed show of drawings taken from Punch starts at the National Theatre on February 5. The Fantoni show is a family affair, Barry's satirical work being accompanied by romantic and atmospheric watercolours of Venice and the Mediterranean by his father Peter. Prices range from £50 to £120 at the New Grafton Gallery, 49 Church Road, Barnes, London SW13 (01-748 8850). The exhibition continues until Feb 23. At the National Theatre the collection includes the composite cartoons by Bill Hewison which accompany the Punch theatre criticisms and caricatures like the one of Rowan Atkinson (right) by John Jensen, who illustrates the television column. There are some 100 original drawings, priced at about £50 each, and they will be displayed in the Terrace Entrance Foyer from February 4 to March 30.



Handy toys

Handmade toys by craftsmen from all parts of the country will be on show at the toy fair which opens tomorrow at Kensington New Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8. It is the sixth fair organized by the British Toy Makers Guild and includes the work of 44 craftsmen, 10 of whom are new exhibitors this year. The price range is wide - from jumping jacks, small wooden animals and traditional Noah's

DRINK

Musky mysteries of the spicy Syrah

I love the Syrah grape. Its deep purple-black tannic, gutsy wines have a wonderful musky, old world quality coupled with a spicy violet and tea-rose perfume that bowl me over. This does not prevent me from recognizing that the austere, cassia-like character and well-travelled charms of the Cabernet Sauvignon make it the superior grape variety, as do the plummy flavours of Burgundy's Pinot Noir wines. It's just that I will always have a soft spot for the Syrah. Unlike other red grape varieties, the Syrah really distinguishes itself only in one small area, that of the northern Rhône, and my predilection for this grape stems primarily from its weakness for wines from the region. The historic vine-covered hill, topped by the tiny chapel of St Christopher, that rises above the Rhône at Tain-l'Hermitage which produces the finest and most famous Syrah wine - Hermitage.

Just over this granitic terraced hill to the north lie the gentler slopes of the Crozes-Hermitage vineyards which produce similar but softer, less majestic wines, while 15 miles south of Hermitage is Cornas, a noble, sturdy, Syrah wine that matures into a plummy, fruity mouthful, superior to Crozes-Hermitage but still not quite in the same league as Hermitage. St Joseph, to the north-west of Cornas and on the other side of the River Rhône from Hermitage, is now a larger appellation and produces the lightest and fruitiest of the Rhône wines from the northern Rhône. But it is those massive Côte Rotie wines from the extraordinarily steep "roasted slope" vineyards just south of Viéne in the extreme north of the Côtes du Rhône region that



provide the toughest competition for Hermitage. The sun-baked terraced vines of the Côte Rotie produce wines that take years to come round and soften up but when they do they are capable, as is Hermitage, of comparison with some of the world's greatest red wines. No one knows quite where the Syrah grape came from. Some say the Romans planted the first vines on the hill at Hermitage. Another theory claims it was the Greeks who brought the Syrah or Shiraz grape with them, from the ancient Persian city of Shiraz, and planted vines as they journeyed up the Rhône valley from their trading post at Marseilles in about 600BC. I rather like to think that the Greek version is true simply because the Syrah grape has a musky, old world perfumed

Merchants who specialize in the finest French Syrahs include O W Loeb (15 Jermyn Street, London SW1), with their fine Paul Jaboulet Aîné wines. Adnams (Sole Bay Brewery, Southwold, Suffolk), with their excellent Etienne Guigal wines among others, and Robin Yapp, of course, with his superb wines from Auguste Clape, Gérard Chave, Max Chapoutier et al. It is hard to pick out just a handful of wines from so many good examples but at the inexpensive end you are unlikely to go wrong with the spicy '83 Syrah de l'Ardèche (Yapp Brothers, The Old Brewery, Merc, Wiltshire stock the '82 for £2.85, La Vigneronne stock the '83 for £2.89). At the other end of the scale is Paul Jaboulet Aîné's glorious rich, spicy '82 Hermitage La Chapelle - named after the famous St Christopher chapel (Adnams £7.82). Jane MacQuitty

HOME MEASURE IS CHILDS PLAY FOR SHELFSTORE.

Advertisement for 'HOME MEASURE IS CHILDS PLAY FOR SHELFSTORE.' featuring a child playing with toys on a shelf. Text includes: 'TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE HOME MEASURE SERVICE ON OUR UNIVERSAL SYSTEM OF SHELVES, CUPBOARDS, BUREAUX, FRAMES, WARDROBES, BUNK-BEDS, BEDS, TABLES... FOR ANY ROOM IN THE HOME CONTACT NEAREST BRANCH FOR DETAILS.' and '59 NEW KINGS ROAD, LONDON SW6 TEL: 01-736-9123'. A logo for 'STOR SHELF' is also present.

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Television and radio choice

ON THE AIR

Warblers on the river that just keeps on rolling

Films on TV

Tomorrow, the centenary of the composer's birth, is National Jerome Kern Day in the United States, so designated by no less than President Reagan. Marking the event more modestly, Channel 4 has the best of the three-screen versions of the Kern-Oscar Hammerstein musical, *Show Boat* (10.20pm-12.25am).

Kern is worth a celebration, a master of the romantic melody who virtually invented the modern American musical and influenced almost everyone who came after, from Gershwin to Stephen Sondheim. His contribution to the cinema was substantial also: adaptations of eight of his stage hits and several film originals, notably the Asaire-Rogers *Swing Time*.

The first film of *Show Boat* came out in 1929 and was a curious affair. It was originally made as a silent, a close adaptation of the Edna Ferber novel which gave Kern and Hammerstein their subject. The project was overtaken by the spread of the talkies, partly re-shot to take in songs and dialogue and given an 18-minute prologue of selections from the Broadway show.

The same studio, Universal, tried again in 1934, this is the version being shown tomorrow. Hammerstein adapted his stage libretto and all the principal roles were cast from actors who had already the parts in the theatre. Only nine of the original songs were retained but three new ones were added and

gri". Ann Sheridan, who had to cope with her drunken husband Steve Cochran on an Arkansas farm in the 1920s (BBC2, Mon, 6-7.30pm).

An Almost Perfect Affair (1979): Michael Ritchie's romantic comedy, set against the Cannes Film Festival, with Keith Carradine trying to sell his first movie and having an affair with a producer's wife, Monica Vitti (Channel 4, Tues, 9-10.45pm).

Front Page Woman (1935): Betty Davis falling for fellow reporter, George Brant, but having to alter his low view of women who work in the rough world of newspapers; racy Warner Brothers drama, directed by Michael (Casablanca) Curtiz (Channel 4, Wed, 2.30-4pm).

ART GALLERIES
 ARNOLD GALLERY, 11 Old Bond St, London W1, 10.30-6.00
 WATERCOLOUR EXHIBITION
 Unit 22, Park Lane, London W1, 10.30-6.00
 THURSDAY 5.00-7.00

ANTHONY DUFFY 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000

BARBARIC ART GALLERY 11 Old Bond St, London W1, 10.30-6.00
 Unit 22, Park Lane, London W1, 10.30-6.00
 THURSDAY 5.00-7.00

CHRISTOPHER WOOD GALLERY 11 Old Bond St, London W1, 10.30-6.00
 Unit 22, Park Lane, London W1, 10.30-6.00
 THURSDAY 5.00-7.00

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS 100, Whitehall, London SW1, 10.30-6.00
 Unit 22, Park Lane, London W1, 10.30-6.00
 THURSDAY 5.00-7.00

ADRIAN MOLE 100, Whitehall, London SW1, 10.30-6.00
 Unit 22, Park Lane, London W1, 10.30-6.00
 THURSDAY 5.00-7.00

CRANE KALMAN GALLERY 100, Whitehall, London SW1, 10.30-6.00
 Unit 22, Park Lane, London W1, 10.30-6.00
 THURSDAY 5.00-7.00

20TH CENTURY ENGLISH & EUROPEAN 100, Whitehall, London SW1, 10.30-6.00
 Unit 22, Park Lane, London W1, 10.30-6.00
 THURSDAY 5.00-7.00

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Fine romance: Irene Dunne and Allan Jones in the 1936 version of Kern and Hammerstein's *Show Boat*

Julie was Kitty Darling in Rouben Mamoulian's early sound film, *Applause*. Tragedy hit her off the screen as well as on and she died, an alcoholic, at the age of 41.

And there is Paul Robeson as Joe, getting his bass baritone round the song with which he will always be associated, "Ol' Man River". Though Robeson's rendering has by now become almost a musical cliché, it comes up both fresh and very moving, a poignant lament for the plight of the black man.

The surprising director of the 1936 *Show Boat* was James Whale, the Englishman who went to Hollywood to film his stage production of *Journeys*

The True Gyle (1945): The famous Anglo-American tribute to the Allied war effort, covering events in Europe from D-Day to the fall of Berlin. Based on newsreel footage shot by combat cameramen from new countries, selected and edited by directors Carol Reed and Garson Kann (Channel 4, Thurs, 2.30-3.55pm).

Libel (1959): Dirk Bogarde playing three parts in Anthony Asquith's carefully crafted courtroom drama about a baronet who accused of being an impostor. Paul Massie points the finger, Clive Morgan and Robert Morley and Wilfrid Hyde White play opposing counsels (Channel 4, Thurs 5-8.55pm).

First British television showing

Front page woman: Bette Davis

Who wants to be a millionaire and what is it like being one? Radio 4 has had the bright idea of asking a few, people like Michael Caine, Victor Lowmes, Freddie Forsyth, Robert Maxwell and Andrew Lloyd Webber. For their answers, tune in to *The Millionaires* on Tuesday at 8.30pm.

The five-part series is presented by William Davis, former city journalist and editor of *Punch*, author of several books on the rich and himself, according to Radio 4, a millionaire.

The areas he discusses, however, should mainly fascinate those of us who have failed to make the rich elite. How do the five manage their money and who advises them? How do they spend it?

The French collections

Alive and well

Sarah Jane Checkland previews the first major Renoir exhibition for 30 years

This week the fairer sex are on the move in gallery world. First, the Barbican unclashes the stiffs of the fashionable ladies portrayed in the James Tissot exhibition which has just closed, and packs them off to the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester, where they can be seen from next Friday.

Meanwhile, London holds its breath for Renoir and the unveiling of some of the freshest nudes ever painted. "Huge pictures of huge women", as John House, the organizer, puts it. The show, scheduled to travel on to Paris and Boston, opens at the Hayward on Wednesday.

It is high time Renoir (1841-1919) came up for reassessment. One of the most famous Impressionists, he has not been seen in a major exhibition anywhere for more than 30 years. In that time he has been loved and hated in equal measure, according to whether he is associated with *jeune fille* or the chocolate box trade.

"Actually, over 90 per cent is rubbish", John House says of Renoir's 6,000 extant works. Apparently the artist was a compulsive worker who never exercised any quality control. The organizers have, therefore, selected one hundred of the best. "We don't do any aesthetic work, but I hope we have disguised the boredom", Mr House says.

What results is an array of bright, sociable subjects in Renoir's distinctive, feathery brushstrokes. The walls reverberate with relaxed lurches by the river, people boating, girls playing the piano. Particularly fine are the trio of tall paintings showing couples dancing.

Clearly Renoir loved women. His paintings are eloquent sonnets to their beauty, but there is something sinister in his apparent attitude to them. Under his brush they come across as subservient, almost subhuman, reduced to subject matter over which he has complete control. "He simply

turns women into glorious vegetables", John House says. When Renoir was working at his nudes, his great friend and contemporary Monet was painting giant waterlilies in his garden at Giverny. Nowadays the house and garden is a well-manicured museum for thousands of tourists each year who do not know that the bearded artist who frequents the grounds is Monet's great-grandson, Jean-Marie Toulgout. His work can be seen from Tuesday at the Francis Kyle Gallery, in his first London showing.

Born in 1927, Toulgout tried for many years to shake off the shadow of Monet. He practised as an architect until 1966, when he gave up to the ghost and started painting. He is now married to a Monet expert and, as the exhibition shows, has let the influence of the master invade his work. It abounds with mauves and greens, yellows and reds - the colours of the garden - all applied freshly and boldly. Not surprisingly, perhaps, Toulgout's works lack any real guts. Priced at around £600 each, they are a poor man's Monet.

Five years ago a certain, far-sighted, member of the Arts Council exhibition panel suggested that a Renoir show might draw the crowds. His name was John Walker, an artist himself, and his work is being celebrated next week in two exhibitions. The first, Paintings from the Atlas and Oseana Series, will be shown upstairs from Renoir at the Hayward and the second, Prints (1976-84), is at the Tate Gallery (both from Wednesday).

Walker, 45 years old, and currently Dean of the Victorian College of Arts in Melbourne, is a painter in the true meaning of the word. His works are abstract, the texture of the paint itself providing most impact. Often the sole compositional element can be a single monolithic shape placed in the midst of rich, swirling eddies of colour.



Ravishing Renoir: 'Dance at Bougival', one of a particularly fine trio of pictures showing couples dancing

WHERE TO SEE THE SHOWS

James Tissot can be seen at the Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Whitworth Park (061-273 4865) from Fri until March 17. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-9pm. Jean-Marie Toulgout is at the Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, London W1 (499 8870) from Tues until Feb 28. Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-5pm. John Walker: Prints (1976-84) is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London, SW1 (821 1313) from Wed until March 24. Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2-5pm.

GALLERIES

in London and Paris

Charlotte Ellis gets a healthy dose of history at a show in honour of French spas

Everything from simple courses of mineral water to communal thermal bathing and more hygienic forms of hydrotherapy in private cubicles were included in French spa oases. In their time, curists were buried up to the neck and left to soak in salubrious saits, stripped naked and squirted with water jets or subjected to the rigours of any number of daunting devices.

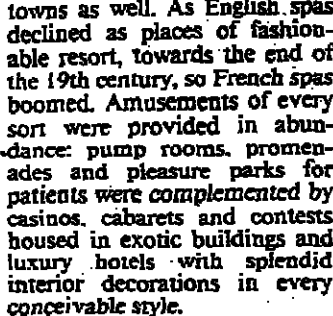
All this is brought to life again at a major exhibition called "Villes d'Eaux en France" which opened in Paris last week. The show is both a monument to the pursuit of pleasure and a reminder of how painful the search for health could be.

As if spa mineral waters and muds were not enough, cures were devised to encompass all four natural elements, with the introduction of fire (in the form of heat for fumigation) and air (as various gases to be inhaled). Private cubicles provided the opportunity for treatments of a "most intimate nature", not necessarily in the least enjoyable. It takes a strong stomach to read in the handsome exhibition catalogue, a disturbing passage from Guy de Maupassant's *Petits voyages en Auvergne* of 1883, describing a hapless patient at the non-tootender mercies of a burly attendant in a catheterization chamber bristling with pipes, taps and rubber tubes.

But if the cures themselves have been dubbed a dress rehearsal for purgatory, more pleasurable pastimes were developed in the French spa towns as well. As English spas declined as places of fashionable resort, towards the end of the 19th century, so French spas boomed. Amusements of every sort were provided in abundance: pump rooms, promenades and pleasure parks for patients were complemented by casinos, cabarets and contests housed in exotic buildings and luxury hotels with splendid interior decorations in every conceivable style.

Competition was fierce, particularly with German spas. While the Germans claimed their spa waters to be equally efficacious against all ailments, the French spa specialists: Vichy was the place for treating liver or stomach complaints and rheumatism and so on. Naturally, there were those who took a sceptical view of spas. Some saw them as places of debauchery, or thought the cures merely a excuse for an extra holiday. Others doubted the medical values of the treatments. It was suggested, for instance, that the success achieved in combating infertility in women at Laxeuil was not unconnected with the proximity to that spa of a military barracks.

French spas took on a new respectability after the First World War; they treated many wounded soldiers, as well as benefiting from a new clientele for whom a cure in Germany had become unthinkable. Spa cures were made available under the French national insurance scheme in the 1930s



Taking the waters: Apparatus used at Aix-les-Bains, as illustrated in 1841

and have remained, part of the state-subsidized medical mainstream ever since (in contrast to the British health service). Their remedial status has been further enhanced both by new therapy techniques and by a decline in the more decadent activities associated with the spa season.

The rise of new medical methods, combined with an ever-increasing emphasis on healthy outdoor pursuits, is taking its toll of earlier architectural manifestations in French spas - theatres and tea-rooms, pleasure palaces and glazed promenades, even the classically inspired *thermae* and bathing halls of oriental splendour are disappearing fast.

Villes d'Eaux en France is organized by the Institut Français d'Architecture in collaboration with the Casse Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts. It is on show at the Beaux-Arts, 11, Quai Malaquais, Paris 6, until Mar 24 and is open daily (except Tues), 1-7pm. Admission 15fr (half price in certain cases).



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Openings

PETER DE WINT (1784-1849): Bicentenary celebration of more than 80 works by the English landscape painter, contemporary of Constable and Turner. Laing Art Gallery, Higham Place, Newcastle upon Tyne (0632 771495). Opens today, until March 10. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-4.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm. CAROLINE HILL (1935-1983): Memorial exhibition of work by fine Slade-trained painter who died last year. It includes the only portrait for which Graham Greene had asked. Erwinse and Darby, 19 Cork Street, London W1X 2LP (734 7954). Opens Wed. until Feb 9. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10.30am-1pm. CAROLINE WHITE: *Reliefs*, carvings and collages combining abstract compositions with drawings of architectural vistas. Quinton Green Fine Art, 5/6 Cork Street, London W1 (734 9178). Opens Wed. until Feb 23. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm. LIGHTHOUSES: Paintings and drawings of lighthouses in England and Wales by David Smith, who spent two and a half years dedicated to this cause. Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (741 9224). Until Fri, until March 6. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 2-5pm.

Photography

ANGUS MCBEAN: 1923-1980. Open Eye Gallery, 90-92 Whitechapel, Liverpool (051-709 9460). Until Feb 23. Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm. A retrospective for Angus McBean, the doyen of theatre portraiture, photographers, who is currently undergoing something of a revival. His romantic and contrived portraits, although using the language of surrealism, never seem to have fully mastered it. FRIDAY PEOPLE: Lyric Theatre, King Street, London W5 (741 9224). Until Feb 2, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm. Like McBean, theatrical portraits are the staple diet for Roy Jones, whose work has been appearing in London's *The Standard* for the past 20 years, illustrating its arts pages. PAINTER AS PHOTOGRAPHER: Old Museum and Arts Centre, Artycke House, Durham (0335 42214). Until Feb 10. Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. This Arts Council show continues its national tour. Work on show includes photographs by Degas, Bonnard, Sickert and Pajji Nash. 9.30am-6.30pm, Wed 9.30am-noon. Sale Wed, 6.30pm. OUT OF SEASON FURNITURE: Fine, livable-with English furniture comes up for sale at Christie's. A 17th-century oak cradle, a mahogany library chair and a dotty late 18th-century cabinet. Christie's, 8 King Street, SW1 (839-9060). Viewing Mon to Wed 9.30am-4.30pm. Sale Thurs, 10.30am.

Auctions

TRAY MAGNIQUE: An oval tray decorated in the late or early 18th century and a good example of early papier mâché is the highlight of a Christie's sale on Wed. Elegantly decorated with a gilt border of acanthus leaves and stamped 'W. LONDON'. It is expected to fetch £200-£700. Christie's South Kensington, 85

Brompton Road, London SW7 (581 7611). Sale Wed, 10.30am. SCOTTISH ICONS: Paintings of Scottish scenes are combined with paintings by Scottish artists. There are also by Anselm Kiefer by Thorburn and trout by Rolfe. Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh is represented by an Art Nouveau "Ophelia" of 1908. Sotheby's 46 West Regent Street, London W1 (4871). Viewing Sun 10am-7pm, Mon and Tues.

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Classical records

Stalking with Stravinsky, wrestling with Schoenberg

Stravinsky: *The Rake's Progress* Langridge, Ramey, Poppe, London Sinfonietta/Challily. Decca 411 644-1 (three records). Schoenberg: *Moses und Aron* Mazura, Langridge, Chicago SO/Solti. Decca 414 264-1 (two records). Schoenberg: *Gurrelieder* McCracken, Norman, Boston SO/Ozawa. Philips 412 511-2 (two compact discs).

A curious coincidence brings together what are, if not the two greatest 20th-century operas, then certainly the two outstanding composers. They are also, of course, central works to the understanding of what music has been during the last 85 years. Here is Stravinsky stalking his way among the shadows of operatic history: Mozart, Verdi, Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti, Verdi. And here is Schoenberg wrestling against all the odds to carve out ideas that are his alone. Both works were needed in new recordings; both recordings have much to

recommend them, even if they do not altogether oust their predecessors. In regard to Chailly's rival in *The Rake's Progress* is the composer himself, whose recording is now 20 years old but obviously a crucial document. Chailly tends to be a little slower, though there are exceptions: the "Lanterloo" chorus, for instance, is given a brisk swing. The great difference from the Stravinsky version, though, is in the quality of sound, partly because of the recording, partly because of the excellent London Sinfonietta. Often Chailly is tubbier, less crisp, but there are also many delights, like the sophisticated farewell music in the first act and the splendid solo trumpet.

The recording had its origin in the shadows of La Scala in 1979, when Chailly had the Sinfonietta at his disposal as well. However, the only member of that cast to survive on to disc is Philip Langridge as The Rake, and his particular experience does rather show. He is the only

singer who makes Stravinsky's peculiar accentuations seem right for this music; the others sound as if they are singing a terrible translation. He commands the odd intervals and embellishments of Stravinskian *bel canto* also, while his tone conveys a hint of hysteria that is entirely apt. But he is alone. Cathryn Pope as Anne produces a very pure girlish tone that fits her well for the opening pastoral idyll, but shows its limitations when she has to be more of a fighter, and more of an operatic star. Samuel Ramey makes a Shadow of disappointing ordinariness, and there is oddly little in the performances of Sarah Walker as Baba or John Dobson as Sellem to suggest their experience in these roles on the stage. Indeed, there is something staid-bound about the entire recording, despite some misguided attempts to add stage noises and effects of distance. The casting of Astrid Varnay as Mother Goose is another wheeze that unfortunately does not come off.

of abundant melody throughout. And it is psychological authority in that he makes such forceful sense of his words. Given that Franz Mazura's *Moses* is a blustering *homme d'affaires*, paying scant attention to his notes and lacking weight, the final dialogue is turned very much to Aaron's advantage: he is so much more persuasive. The recordings under Boulez and Rosbaud therefore remain essential for their stronger portrayals of Moses, but in every other respect the new version is a marvel. Another major Schoenberg work, his vast concert opera *Gurrelieder*, explodes in the brilliance of compact-disc reproduction in a reissue of the recording made by Seiji Ozawa five years ago. The orchestral sound may be a little too gorgeous, but James MacKenzie and Jessye Norman are effective as Schoenberg's Tristan and Isolde.

A sprightly step forward

When compact discs were launched in this country, the emphasis of the catalogue was on sonic spectaculars, and few recordings of baroque music were among the initial releases. Now, however, there is a flood of earlier music (though as yet lamentably little Renaissance or medieval music) available in the new format, with Bach and Handel featuring particularly strongly in their tercentenary year. Two excellent new recordings of major Bach works demonstrate the pros and cons of compact disc in this repertoire. Musica Antiqua Cologne's new version of *The Art of Fugue* is most refreshing; it can scarcely be called authentic in any sense, since the collection of fugues and canons was probably intended for a single keyboard player with an occasional duet partner. But the Cologne ensemble have transcribed them for small string group and harpsichord, and the result is a collection of sprightly, dancing demonstrations of counterpoint that are as far away from the heavy, burdened world of fugue exercise as could be imagined.

J. S. Bach (Compact Disc Edition): *Art of Fugue*, Musical Offerings Musica Antiqua Cologne D 9 Archiv 413 842-2 (three CDs); *Concertos The English Concert/Pinnock 413 634-2 (three CDs); Orchestral Works The English Concert/Pinnock 413 60X-2 (three CDs); Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra/Ton Koopman Erato from Conifer ECD 88054-5 (two CDs available separately); Handel: *Messiah* Kirkby, Watkinson, Elliott, Thomas, Christ Church Choir, Academy of Ancient Music/Hogwood Clever-Lyre Florilegium 411 856-2 (three CDs); Haydn: *Symphonies Nos 100 and 104* Academy of Ancient Music/Hogwood, Clever-Lyre Florilegium 411 858-2*

Mahler is here exhilarating as the thematic fragments are thrown around between the nine soloists. Koopman's slow movement is (I guess) a real, idiomatic improvisation, and the finale is exhaustingly active. Archiv have demonstrated their commitment to baroque music on compact disc by issuing the new Art of Fugue as part of a large Bach Compact Disc edition, in eight boxes, available separately. There is a most recommendable box of *Concertos* from Pinnock and the English Concert (the multiple harpsichord concertos dazzlingly alive in the new medium) and a box which brings together Pinnock's harpsichord recordings with Ton Koopman's controversial organ recordings (which again acquire a vivid extra dimension on compact disc, though the loudest sounds are very shrill). The remainder of the Archiv collection is made up of very old, albeit sturdy, recordings by Karl Richter, his second account of the St Matthew Passion, his St John Passion, and his Christmas Oratorio - the latter still sounding very lively after 20 years, though the solos are more depressingly overweight than the choruses.

There is already more than one Handel *Messiah* on compact disc; alongside Hogwood's on Decca and Gardiner's on Philips comes Koopman's Erato. But this is an odd mixture of plangent orchestral sounds with a sweet, even effect English choir (The Sixteen), and I continue to prefer Hogwood's use of the Christ Church Oxford boys' choir, which comes up sounding very fresh and agile on compact disc. The coupling of Haydn's "Military" and "London" symphonies is a great success, and the slow movement of No 104 in particular - full of the most hard-finding contrasts and exquisite sonorities - is a great step forward in period-instrumental classical performance.

An important recording of a major, if still incidental, part of Beethoven's oeuvre gives a resonant start to the song-collectors' new year. Beethoven's songs move from the deep seriousness and the lofty elation of the Six Gellert Songs to the intimate lyric sentiment of, for instance, the tiny strophic "Ruf vom Berge". Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau has the measure of them all. Not only is his voice in strong command of a wide range of vocal writing, his characteristically close verbal response is deep-seated in a wise understanding of the composer. This is particularly illuminating when listening to the set as a whole. I was delighted by the way he makes one long, joyous thought of Goethe's "Mädel", and brings the charm and vigour to "An die ferne Geliebte" in an unusually light-handed, totally unsentimental performance. Half the pleasure of another treat,

versions of these too-often-recorded pieces. Ton Koopman's pulsating, driving direction is most evident in the Fifth Concerto, where he plays the great harpsichord cadenza like a man possessed, and the exquisite flute playing of Wilbert Hazelzet, partnered by Roy Goodman's sharp violin playing, is a delight. The nearest old-instrument rival to this version is Pinnock's on Archiv (now also available on compact disc), but though Pinnock has the edge on sophistication in the horn playing in No 1 and the trumpet playing in No 2, the recording begins to sound bland and regularized beside Koopman's passion. The Third Concerto is especially successful on compact disc; the feeling of being actually inside the orchestra (which I confess I find less than enthralling in Stravinsky or

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Lovers triumph over the scoffers

Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette* has long been an opera to invite easy scoffing, mainly from those who know it none too well, just as the same fate has befallen Bellini's opera on Shakespeare's lovers, *I Capuleti ed i Montecchi*. But all that is needed to send the scoffers away, with their communal tail between their legs, is a really good performance. Muti achieved that for Bellini at Covent Garden last season and the results should be heard on HMV later this year. Now, also on HMV, Michel Plisson does the same for Gounod.

Plisson and his Toulouse forces have been quietly building up a first-rate reputation and gathering around them a group of stylish and idiomatic singers. Most of the artists in last year's highly successful version of Massenet's *Manon* are back here in *Romeo*: Kraus, Quilico, Van Dam, Burles. Only the soprano, Catherine Malfitano, is new to the fold and she makes a very creditable attempt to lighten her voice and flick it with a silvery, girlish quality for Juliette. There are occasional lapses into womanly maturity, but she pips out the opening

opera (1949), although his French would not have passed muster even on the Marseilles waterfront. Gounod concentrated all his best music on the lovers and the orchestra themes associated with them. But José Van Dam makes something out of the dull role of Frère Laurent; Gabriel Bacquier, a few frugal sounds apart, is a rightly sententious Come Capulet; and Gino Quilico the most mercurial of Mercutio. Plisson conducts as adroitly as ever, giving particular delight in the Act I mazurka. Whether the mazurka was in fashion in 15th-century Verona is open to question, but it was certainly more than acceptable in Sandomir, close to the Russo-Polish border, in *Boris Godunov*; Mussorgsky's opera, David Lloyd Jones dubbed "the other woman" no Rimsky additions - arrives from Philips on CD I have heard from the Soviet Union. The sound is decent, without being special; the bells in the Kremlin ring out with jangling harshness at Boris's coronation and the choruses are well handled, but the USSR TV Orchestra,

conducted with fervour by Vladimir Fedoseyev, is consistently too far back. The Polish scenes are the most impressive on this set, which began life as a radio transmission and has taken many years to transfer to black disc and CD. Yuri Mazurok and Irina Arkipovich, familiar artists in the West, show just how Rangoni and Merina should be sung and so rarely are. Vladimir Pavlov's tenor is stretched at the top by Dimitri's music, but the character is all there: The supporting roles range from the excellent (Andrei Sokolov's Shuisky) to the totally unacceptable (Glafira Koroleva's Feodor). The main question, though, will be over Alexander Fedorov's in the title role: grainy-voiced, impetuous, but all too often with grating tones, always putting on a "show". At times he makes Christoff sound positively restrained. In brief, A recommendation for Rossini's *Fedre messe solenne*. Philips on CD (also black disc and cassette) have cast it strongly, with Ricciarelli outstanding. John Higgins

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Shooting pains

James Mason's last two performances before he died in 1984 will rank among his finest: as Graham Greene's *Doctor Fischer of Geneva*, shown recently on television, and in *The Shooting Party*, which opens on Friday.

The current estimate of Mason as one of our most gifted and sensitive screen actors would not have been made 10 or 15 years ago when he seemed to be bogged down in a succession of routine movies that did little to demonstrate his talent.

He had made his name as the man-you-love-to-hate in the Gainsborough melodrama of the 1940s, sealed his reputation playing the dying IRA gunman in *Odd Man Out* and after a well publicized row with the British film industry left to seek a new career in Hollywood.

For a long time he seemed to have lost his way, with only occasional glimpses - in the remake of *A Star is Born* with Judy Garland, as Humbert Humbert in *Lolita* - of his quality. And yet the quality was there all the time, in the fundamental intelligence, the prising out of a character, the beautifully modulated voice.

In *The Shooting Party* he plays Sir Randolph Nettlesby, a wealthy landowner whose time is passing. The performance, given poignancy by Mason's death, is a study in melancholy: he is an old man looking back on a way of life that is doomed.

It is 1913 and the First World War is only months away.

Presiding over a pleasant shoot on his country estate, the mood reflected in autumn tints, Sir Randolph, at least, has no illusions. That same cannot be said for his guests as they wine and dine and gossip and indulge in mild affairs. And yet there is a feeling of premonition, as if, deep down, people can see the coming slaughter in the Flanders trenches.

Adapted from Isobel Clegate's novel and directed by

Alan Bridges, *The Shooting Party* inevitably recalls another portrait of an aristocratic society on the verge of disintegration, *La Règle du Jeu*. But to stand any film against Jean Renoir's masterpiece, even one as conscientiously made as *The Shooting Party*, would be grossly unfair.

It is enough to indicate some of *The Shooting Party's* qualities: the fidelity to source and to period; and the enjoyment of a raft of seasoned British actors, of which Mason is only one, at the top of their form. There is Edward Fox, the unbending representative of traditional values.

There is Robert Hardy, an actor apt to overdo things but here in perfect control as another out of his time, decent, honest, naive. Among the outsiders, characters on the fringe of the shoot but destined to be affected by it, is a crisply executed portrait of a thatcher-turned-poacher by Gordon Jackson.

John Gielgud has done so many film cameos in recent years that one has tended to merge into the next. His amiable anarchist in *The Shooting Party* is, however, likely to stand apart; a brief scene with Mason, in which two men of different outlook find common ground, is a gem.

The Shooting Party (cert 15) opens in London on Fri at the Curzon (499 3737).



Endangered species: Aristocracy at bay in *The Shooting Party* with Edward Fox, Cheryl Campbell and (left) James Mason

Openings

BLOOD SIMPLE (18): Self-consciously stylish thriller from Joel Coen, making his debut as a director, with John Getz as a bartender at the Neon Boot saloon caught in a spider's web of love, duplicity and bizarre violence. From Fri at the Warner West End (439 0791), Classic Haymarket (829 1527), Odeon Kensington (602 6844), Odeon Swiss Cottage (586 3057), Classic Chelsea (335 5966).

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (15): The Lindsay Kemp Company get through Shakespeare's play in record time (78 minutes). The text gets short shrift, but the fairy atmosphere is fully indulged. From Fri at the Screen on the Hill (435 3366).

TEACHERS (15): Nick Nolte stars as a disillusioned teacher involved in a lawsuit against his school. An uneasy mixture of social drama and comedy; directed by Arthur Hiller. From Fri at the Plaza (437 1234).

Selected

AMADEUS (PG)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8851)
ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)
Peter Shaffer's celebrated play about the rivalry between Mozart and Salieri is re-worked by the author and director Milos Forman into a lavish screen spectacular with striking performances and brilliantly juggled operatic excerpts.

THE KILLING FIELDS (15)
Warner West End (439 0791)
Britain's lavish entry into the blockbuster war-movie arena, produced by David Putnam, directed by television veteran Roland Joffe. Sam Waterston stars as the American journalist covering the Cambodian war helped by a local man (Hang Ngoc); fairly impressive in spots.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Covent Garden (240 1066)
A revival of Vincenzo La Traviata after four years' absence, has Ileana Cotrubas in the title role, Neri Shioffi in his first Covent Garden Alfredo, and Norman Bailey as the older Germont. Sir Colin Davis conducting. The six performances scheduled to replace the postponed *Manon* begin on Tues at 7.30pm, with a further one this week on Fri also.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (836 3161)
Tonight at 5pm is the opening of *Die Fledermaus*, a production for ENO of *Tristan* is the director's first job for this company, and with veteran Wagnerian Reginald Godall in the pit it should be quite a night. Johanna Meier and Alberto Remedios are joined by John Tomlinson as King Marke, and the transition is by the director's further performance this week on Wed at 5pm. On Thurs (7.30pm), another chance to see Jonathan Miller's famed *Rigoletto*, sbl with John Ravensley and Valerie Armstrong; and on Fri, *La Cenerentola* (7.30pm) is back to its last performance this season.

OPERA FACTORY
For once, Opera Factory's now definitive production of Harrison Birtwistle's *Punch and Judy* will not play to London audiences, but is touring Coventry, Manchester, Bracknell and Bristol. Tonight and tomorrow at 7.30pm David Freeman's savagely beautiful playground production of this disturbing work visits Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music (061 273 4504). By the way, familiar and excellent cast led by Omar Ebrahim and Hilary Western and the Endymion Ensemble is conducted by Howard Williams. On Wed and Thurs (7.30pm) the company reaches its new base, the Theatre of South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell (0344 484123) before the last stop next weekend (Fri and Feb 2 at 8pm) at the Arnoldini Theatre, Bristol (0272 29991).

SCOTTISH OPERA
Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1310)
A rare from the new production of *Capriccio*, for a week of Smetana's *The Bartered Bride* in David Pountney's lively production, with John Treleavan and Mane Siorach as Jenik and Marinka. Performances this afternoon at 2.15pm and on Tues and Thurs at 7.15pm. There will be three special schools' performances, adapted and presented by William McCue, on Mon, Wed and Fri at 2.15pm. These performances, which are open to the public, have no interval and last for just 1 hour 20 minutes.

OPERA 80
This energetic young company is on the move again after their Christmas break. They arrive on Monday (South Hill Park Arts Centre) for their glittery update of Rossini's *Italian Girl in Algiers* and on Tues for their rather heavy-handed Verdi *Masked Ball* (both performances at 7.30pm). Strong vocal and orchestral performances that it will work a treat for both. The company moves on to Ipswich (Corn Exchange 0473 215544) with *Italian* on Thurs and Feb 2, and *Masked Ball* on Fri.

CO-OPERA
Isabella Cechanova, Theobald's Road, London WC1 (368 1394)
Last night of Gies Swayne's first opera *Le Nozze di Cherubino* which will conclude from the harpsichord at 7.30 pm.

THEATRE

Character of corruption

Jim Broadbent plays the Mayor in Gogol's *The Government Inspector*, which opens at the Olivier Theatre next week. He is very much a National Theatre player, having recently been in the cast of that other National Theatre, ... of Brent.

Although this will be his first appearance at the Olivier, he was the first actor on stage at the Cottesloe when he played a multitude of parts in the science fiction work, *The Illuminatus*. He must have felt at home, since Brent productions reduce masterpieces to a manageable length and employ two or three actors to play all the roles.

The change of scale in moving to the Olivier may be considerable, but as an actor with a wide range of work behind him, including film and television, he has had little difficulty in making the transition. The National Theatre of Brent is in the school of "broad" acting, with eccentric characters who are likely to address the audience directly. Gogol's comedy of mistaken identity also has its "broad", larger than life characters.

Khlestakov, a clerk, is played by Rik Mayall, a star of BBC television's *The Young Ones*, which he co-writes. He arrives in a small Russian town, steeped in corruption and bureaucracy, and is mistaken for a government inspector. The mayor and his officials bonize Khlestakov, who eventually becomes betrothed to the mayor's daughter before the mistaken identity is discovered.

Broadbent is happy with his casting. "I am a character actor and like playing extreme characters, meek or violent. This is a very theatrical piece. The basis has to be true, and

once that is accepted the characters can become grotesque."

Having read a biography of Gogol to prepare himself, Broadbent says he was "quite batty, but a genius". *The Government Inspector* is a very shrewd piece about corruption, and it became a cult work. Gogol then disowned it and sold the rights, furious because he thought audiences were not appreciating it in the right way.

The Government Inspector is directed by Richard Eyre, his first production for the National Theatre since his year of bumper successes in 1982 when he directed *Guy and Dolls*, *The Beggar's Opera* and *Schwyzel in the Second World War*.

Reopening in London is the Hull Truck Theatre company, with *Up 'N' Under*, a comedy about a team of amateur rugby league no-hopers, which won the Edinburgh Fringe first award and the Olivier award for the best comedy of 1984.

The cast of six in John Godber's play must be extremely athletic: a judo expert, an England rugby union triallist, a goalkeeper and a marathon runner, play a rugby match on stage.

Up 'N' Under, which had six performances at the Donmar Warehouse last autumn, returns next Monday with another play by Godber, *Bouncers*, set in a nightclub disco.

Christopher Warman

The Government Inspector opens at the Olivier Theatre (928 2252) on Thurs at 7pm. Previews tonight and Mon-Wed at 7.15pm. In repertory, *Up 'N' Under* and *Bouncers* opens at Donmar Warehouse (836 3029) on Mon at 7.30pm, until Feb 23, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm.



Muddled mayor: Jim Broadbent in *The Government Inspector*

In Preview

BETTER TIMES: A version of the 1921 dispute between the Government and 30 councillors of Poplar, East London, who refused to levy a rate they considered unjust and were therefore sent to prison. Theatre Royal Stratford East, London E15 (534 0310). Previews Thurs, Fri, Feb 2, at 8pm, opens Feb 4 at 7.30pm. Until Mar 2, Mon-Sat at 8pm.

Openings

A MINUTE TOO LATE: Part of the International Mime Festival, this show by the three-man Théâtre de Complicité (Belgian/Italian/English) does not conform to the usually accepted rules of mime and is more of a conventional theatre piece. An examination of attitudes, rituals and behaviour surrounding death. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (930 3647). Opens Tues at 8pm, until Feb 2, Tues-Sat at 8pm.

A SUMMER'S DAY: British premiere of the latest work by Polish dramatist Slawomir Mrozek, described as "a philosophical comedy about the follies of human aspiration and achievement". Directed by Peter McAlister, who has worked extensively in Poland. With Philip Voss, Jonathan Hackett and Linda Marlowe. Polish Theatre, 238 King Street, London W6 (741 0398). Opens Tues at 7pm, then until Feb 10, Wed-Sun at 7.30pm.

ROCK & JAZZ

CHAKA KHAN
Tonight, Hexagon Theatre, Reading (0734 591591); Mon to Wed, Hammermith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081); Thurs, Poole Arts Centre (0202 682222).
Her newly-rep into must have accounted for about 90 per cent of the appeal of "I Feel For You". Otherwise an unexceptional vehicle for the fluent but unoriginal style of a soul singer for whom Aretha's falsetto crown will forever out of reach. On *Top of the Pops* this week she seemed to be doing an impersonation of Bertice imitating Tina Turner imitating Prince.

DEREK BAILEY/KEITH TIPPETT
Today, Bethnal Green Music Library, Mayfield House, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 (enquiries: 986 6904).
In prospect, a highly volatile combination. Tippett's exploration of the piano's physical properties - the twang of wire, the echo of a vast wooden box - reflects Bailey's off-centre vision of the guitar. This is an afternoon concert, starting at 2.30pm.

SHALAMAR
Tues, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2591); Wed, Newcastle City Hall (0632 612506); Thurs, Southport Theatre (0774 404041); Fri, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (0602 472328).
Only Howard Hewett remains of the trio which, with "Take That To The Bank", "Full of Fire" and "Over the Moon", briefly became the popular favourites of Britain's soul fans a few seasons back. However,

since Hewett has always been the group's creative mainspring the end may not yet be in sight.

DOLLAR BRAND/JOHN McLAUGHLIN
Tonight, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (589 8212).
Brand, the great South African pianist, leads the small group called Ekaya which performed so satisfactorily on the South Bank last year, while McLaughlin matches his guitar with that of Paco de Lucía, the Spanish virtuoso.

CHICAGO FREEMAN
Tonight and Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (439 0747).
Standing between the post-modernism of the Chicago bunch (from whose ranks he sprang) and the cool neo-classicism of the Marseilles bunch, this striking saxophonist and composer is among the more adaptable members of the current younger generation of American jazz musicians.

NEW ORDER
Tomorrow, Tiffany's, Leeds (0532 431448); Mon, Sobell Centre,

Homesay Road, London N1 (833 7041).
Probably the ultimate refinement of the movement begun by the Velvet Underground's Lou Reed and John Cale almost 20 years ago; perhaps, too, the last word in intellectual disco music.

A CERTAIN RATIO
Tomorrow, Spring Street Theatre, Hull (0482 23638).
Their awesomely stylish graphic design notwithstanding, it has been a while since A Certain Ratio's records lived up to the band's early



Soulful sparkler: Chaka Khan continues to tour the country

promise. The current coupling of "Life's a Scream" and "There's Only This" is a typical tease.

BLUES REUNION
Mon, Half Moon, 93 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 (788 2387).
Spencer Davis and his former drummer, Pete York, encounter the organist Brian Auger, once a colleague of Rod Stewart and Jule Driscoll, in a quartet completed by the bass guitarist Colin Hodgkinson.

TERRY JENKINS
Wed, Bass Clef, 35 Coronet Street, London N1 (729 2478).
James Last's drummer uses his time off to lead a very sharp 10-piece band, with appealing mainstream-modern arrangements and a corps of high class soloists, including Henry Lowther (trumpet) and Peter King (alto saxophone).

LEE PERRY
Thurs, Dingwall, Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 (287 4967).
In his prime, Perry was the most imaginative of Jamaica's record producers, particularly in his work over the years with Bob Marley. Sometimes the victim of a lack of discipline, his creativity can still catch fire.

ARILD ANDERSEN
Thurs, Third Eye Centre, Glasgow (041 332 7521); Fri, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031 668 9117).
Flying the flag for the ECM label's brand of cool chamber jazz, this all-Scandinavian quartet features the drumming of Jon Christensen, one of Keith Jarrett's preferred partners.

THE TIMES LEISURE SUIT OFFER



THE growing legions of Keep Fit enthusiasts have brought about an increasing demand for new, comfortable sports and leisure wear. We have selected this high quality garment, designed for *The Times* readers by Mr President, the originator of the classic American leisure suit. The navy blue and grey top has deep stretch-knit crew neck, cuffs and waistband - with the title of *THE TIMES* newspaper printed in soft navy blue flock on the left-hand breast. The trousers are grey with navy blue stripe, drawstring waist and elasticated ankles. The leisure suit is made of 50% cotton, 50% cretan acrylic and is fully machine washable. The inside surfaces have a soft fleecy lining that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The wide range of sizes should suit most people and are as follows:
Top - Small (34in-36in), Medium (38in-40in), Large (42in-44in), Ex Large (46in-48in).
Trousers - Small (waist: 29in/30in), Medium (31in/33in), Large (34in/36in), XL (36in/38in).
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DANCE

ROYAL BALLET
Covent Garden (240 1066). Today and Wed at 8pm, Thurs at 7.30pm.
Gennadi Rozhdestvensky conducts the last two performances of the new *Absacker*, with Lesley Collier and Anthony Dowell dancing tonight. Bryony Brind and Derek Deane, Wed. *Cinderella* (Thurs) has Wendy Ellis and Stephen Jeffreys in the leads.

EXTEMPORARY DANCE
Show Theatre, 100 Euston Road, London WC1 (988 1394). Today at 7.30pm.
Tonight's closing programme of the company's London season includes a guest appearance of London Youth Dance Theatre.

JANET SMITH
Watford, Palace Theatre (92 25671). Today at 3 and 8pm.
Derby, Playhouse (0332 363275). Tues-Thurs at 7.30pm.
A new comedy ballet, *Tom Dick and Harry*, by Nan Sheridan, is given today with Janet Smith's *Another Man Drowning*.
Christopher Bruce's *Holiday Sketches* and Robert North's *Stravinsky Miniatures*. This last is repeated next week with Gill Clarke's *Rum and Coca Cola* and Smith's *Signs of Another Sun*.

MANTS
Birmingham, Midlands Arts Centre (021 440 3838). Today at 7.45pm

Brighton, Gardner Centre, University of Sussex (0273 686861). Mon-Feb 2 at 7.45pm.
The programmes are selected from *Breakneck Hotel*, a new work by Timothy Buckley, and two pieces by Mantis's director, Micha Bergesa: *Mouth of the Night*, made in collaboration with Derek Jarman, and *Stage 7*. For avant-gardists only.

Films: Geoff Brown; Theatre: Tony Patrick; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Dance: John Percival; Opera: Hilary Finch

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

British Airways' flotation obscured by legal clouds

The flotation of British Airways shows no sign of emerging from the cloud of uncertainty and confusion which has engulfed it since Christmas...

Until they are, the flotation will remain firmly on the back-burner. Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport...

These are the cases involving individual air travellers and others, and they are almost as serious a threat to the issue as the main action...

The Government is keen to make sure that once the legal hurdles have been finally cleared, there should be an adequate period to "market" the BA issue.

GEC's Bond makes for the touchline

The General Electric Company, 85 years old this year, will be losing almost one of the two great architects of its success next month...

He will not relinquish all duties. Close observers suggest that he will be cheering, just as much from the touchline.

The timing of this formal breaking of an historic bond has some old GEC speculation in particular the demerger of Marconi and the setting-up of an identifiable vehicle by which GEC would invest some of its £1.6 billion cash into other companies.

The floating of Marconi is currently shelved, though not ruled out. Investing in industry? GEC has a well-rehearsed answer...

Venture capital and new project finance, though, may be about to get a shine. GEC has always encouraged the development of new products which it may not have thought of itself but is willing to test...

Share price a key to Dunlop jockeying

After a week of battle over Dunlop's future, all sides are still jockeying for position. In the market, the share prices of both Sir Owen Green's BTR and Dunlop again rose yesterday...

The share price, so embarrassing before Sir Michael and his colleagues cancelled their special options, is now strong ammunition for them. Sir Michael is trying to stitch up a deal between the banks and small shareholders...

Sir Michael also has the advantage of being in the driving seat. Provided he maintains his alliance with Pegg, his big Malaysian shareholder, he is in a good position to influence the timing of the meeting...

At an earlier stage, the Dunlop camp might have preferred to delay the meeting, because Sir Owen can block the package with his preference shares...

The banks, while making concessions to small shareholders on the side, will be trying to wring some from BTR on the other. They do not like the idea of having to convert £100 million of debt into BTR preference shares...

Sir Gwen, however, still has the whip hand: he has the money and can bail the banks out of the whole complex exercise. BTR has delayed its offer document, and is clearly considering its option...

Poor Sir Michael, once a hero of managers and Whitehall, has lost popularity in both camps by some of his outspoken comments. Some outsiders maliciously suggest that BTR could put him and his colleagues in a corner by offering, say, 25p on present terms and 30p if Sir Michael agreed to waive compensation...

Pound falls to \$1.132 despite exports record and pit hopes

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound dropped a new low yesterday, despite trade figures showing a small current account surplus last year...

The sterling index closed at 70.6, down 0.1 on the day and the lowest ever London close.

The trade figures had little impact on the pound although they showed that exports rose to a record £6,701 million last month...

For 1984 as a whole, the current account was in surplus by £196 million...

Trade position deteriorated sharply last year. In 1983 there was non-oil trade deficit of £7,481 million...

The latest trade figures remain distorted by the effect of the new rules on collection of value added tax at the ports...

The Treasury estimates that the miners' strike led to a worsening of £2.75 billion in the current account last year, indicating an underlying surplus of about £3 billion...

The trade figures failed to lift the pound on a quiet trading day. The foreign exchanges remained obsessed with the threat of central bank intervention...

The absence of central bank intervention provided a lull for the dollar, which rose over a penny against the mark...

Sterling's weakness continued to cause nervousness on the money markets, with the three-month interbank rate edging up to 12 1/2% at the close...

IN BRIEF

Hanson bid deadline

Hanson Trust yesterday said that Tuesday will be the final closing date for its £180 million takeover bid for Powell Duffryn...

Merger agreed

Michael Page Partnership, the financial recruitment group, and Addison Communications, the corporate communications concern, have agreed terms for a merger.

Tempus, page 23

Shares in Fleet Holdings, the Daily and Sunday Express, Daily Star and Morgan-Crampton publishing group, rose 7p to a record 273p yesterday as speculators gambled on a takeover bid.

United Newspapers has 18 per cent of Fleet and is expected to increase that to 20 per cent. But most of its investment was bought from Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press at only 230p. United called a shareholders' meeting yesterday to approve the deal with Pergamon.

NatWest loans

National Westminster is lifting the cost of personal loans and home improvements because of recent interest rate rises. A two-year personal loan goes from 10 to 11 per cent (23 per cent annual) a five-year secured home improvement loan from 8 to 9 per cent (17.4 per cent effective).

Mr John Robertshaw has resigned as a non-executive director of Miss Debbie Moore's Pineapple Dance Studios. A spokesman attributed the move to the fact that Energy Finance and General Trust, which Mr Robertshaw represented, is no longer financial adviser to Pineapple.

Investment down

Institutional investment in property fell by 9.6 per cent in the third quarter of last year to £394 million against £436 million in the previous quarter. Knight, Frank & Rutley, the estate agent, says that average quarterly investment, taking the first three quarters of 1984, was £367 million.

Last chance Yarrow ballot

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

Workers at the Yarrow shipbuilding yard on Clydehead are to be balloted for a second time next Tuesday in a final effort to win support for the management's scheme to stage an employee buyout there.

Yarrow is one of seven of British Shipbuilders' shipyard yards up for sale as part of the Government's privatisation drive. The scheme, drawn up by Barclays Merchant Bank, would involve a joint buyout of both Yarrow and another Scottish yard, Hall Russell, of Aberdeen.

In the first ballot of employees there was an overwhelming vote in favour at Hall Russell, where 98 per cent of the 780 workers backed the scheme. But the ballot at Yarrow was boycotted by most workers after local shop stewards urged their members not to take part.

Only 20 per cent of Yarrow's 5,400



Norman Lamont: keen on buyouts

workers voted, although 93 per cent of those who did said they would back the scheme.

Barclays Merchant Bank, which has been canvassing institutional support in the City for the buyout, said yesterday it

would withdraw from the scheme unless there was a better turnout - and a vote in favour - at a second ballot this week.

Several companies, including Trafalgar House, are known to be interested in buying the Yarrow yard, which produces the Type 22 frigate. A buyout of the Hall Russell yard on its own was not feasible, Barclays Merchant Bank said.

Mr Norman Lamont, the minister responsible for shipbuilding at the Department of Trade and Industry, has made it clear that he is interested in the idea of buyouts in the shipyard sale programme. Similar attempts are being made at several other yards including Vosper, Swan Hunter and Brooke Marine.

In considering the value of rival bids, Mr Lamont is expected to give some extra "weighting" to those involving buyouts.

Qualified win for ICI over taxes

ICI won a partial victory in the High Court yesterday in its decision on its allegations that oil companies were receiving unfair tax advantages.

Mr Justice Woolf ruled that the Inland Revenue had acted unlawfully in the way certain tax was assessed for ICI's leading competitors, Shell, Esso and BP. However, ICI lost its main claim that the Government had allowed the oil companies tax concessions which breached EEC fair competition laws on aid to industry.

The legal battle against the Government concerned alleged concessions on tax levied on the gas mixture, ethane, which the oil companies extract from the North Sea and use in the manufacture of ethylene - one of the most important materials in the petro-chemical industry.

ICI uses naphtha to make its ethylene. The company complained that naphtha did not attract tax concessions, and therefore it was the victim of unlawful discrimination.

The judge said ICI complained that the Government included tax clauses in the 1982 Finance Act favourable to the oil companies because Esso and Shell had threatened to pull out of their £500 million ethylene plant project at Mossmorran on the Firth of Forth, which is expected to create 250 jobs.

Indeed, ICI contends that there must have been a confidential deal between Shell, Esso and the Government affording a tax concession so major as to enable the continuation of a project which, in the then market conditions, would not otherwise have been viable, he said.

ICI also alleged that BP had threatened to close its ethylene plant at Grangemouth.

Insolvency Bill faces Lords fight

By Phillip Robinson

Still opposition to certain sections of the Government's Bill to reform the insolvency laws will be mounted in the House of Lords next week.

The 203-clause Insolvency Bill starts its three-day committee stage on Tuesday. Opposition to some clauses at the second reading last week was enough to induce Mr Alex Fletcher, parliamentary under secretary at the Department of Trade, to meet peers on Thursday to try to defuse the hostility. It is understood that few attend.

Opposition is aimed at the Government's basic plank that a director is guilty until proved innocent and that he may become personally liable for a company's debts if he fails to show he did everything he could to prevent the company from going under.

Some Conservative peers have said that they will vote against the Government if the Bill remains intact. Under the Bill a director of a company which is compulsorily wound up would automatically be disqualified. That is the only way, Mr Fletcher says, of preventing an abuse of limited liability which protects directors' personal assets.

Between 90 and 100 opposition amendments have been tabled. While not wanting to make it easy for directors to get away with negligence, the body of opposition to the Bill feels that automatic disqualification of directors is too harsh.

Amendments have also been tabled to change the clause relating to "wrongful trading". Pressure is building for a different definition that would measure whether a director had acted with reasonable diligence and skill in the circumstances prevailing at the time of a company's demise.

At the second reading, Lord Bruce of Donington said that the proposal that delinquent directors should automatically be disqualified might have been included in the Bill because the Government was unwilling to enforce its own laws or those already on the statute books.

New savings certificate challenges societies

By Richard Thomson

Building societies face fresh competition for deposits after yesterday's announcement by the Department of National Savings of aggressive interest rate increases, including a new savings certificate. The move follows recent building society rate increases.

The thirtieth issue certificate, paying 8.85 per cent tax free after five years, will replace the current twentieth issue, which pays 8 per cent, on February 13. Building society higher deposit rates are around 8.5 to 9 per cent.

A maximum investment of £5,000 in £25 units is allowed in the new certificate: after five

years each unit will be worth £38.21.

National Savings is on course to meet its £3 billion deposits target by April, but cannot afford to fall behind.

The most successful issue, the twenty-eighth, took in £1.1 billion in six weeks. National Savings is also increasing from 8.25 to 9 per cent the general extension rate paid to investors who do not withdraw money from maturing certificates. Applicable from February 1, the new rate is designed to prevent withdrawals from the nineteenth issue certificate, which starts to mature on February 4.

Rights issue by Sangers

By Pam Spooner

Sangers, the holding company led by Mr Tom Whyte, announced a one-for-two scrip and subsequent nine-for-eight rights issue yesterday to raise £18.4 million. The cash will pay for Pavilion, a US budget-price cosmetics business for which Sangers has been negotiating for nine months.

Pavilion has shown startling growth in four years from sales of \$952,000 in 1980 to \$18.63 million last year, when profits were \$3.53 million. The group forecast \$6 million (\$5.2 million) pretax profit for the year to next June 30.

In total, Pavilion will cost \$24 million; \$17 million is payable now, with the rest due over the next five years on a profit-achieved basis.

Tempus, page 23

MARKET SUMMARY table containing Stock Markets, Main Price Changes, Currencies, and Interest Rates.

Advertisement for Skipton Building Society featuring 'SOVEREIGN SHARES' and a '9.7% NET' interest rate. Includes contact information and a form for application.

WALL STREET

Table of stock market data including company names, prices, and changes. Includes sections for 'Dow starts upwards' and 'CANADIAN PRICES'.

Dow starts upwards

New York (Reuter) The Wall Street stock market headed higher in early active trading yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell 4.30 to 1,270.43 on Thursday, was up 1.43 to 1,271.86 at mid-morning.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LONDON COMMODITY PRICES, RUBBER, GAS OIL, COPPER HIGH GRADE, and COFFEE.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table of money market and gold prices including interbank money, base rates, and gold prices.

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS

Table of Euro-currency deposit rates for various banks and currencies.

APPOINTMENTS

Firth Maltings: Mr Roy Summers becomes chairman and joins the board. Mr Derek Wilkinson also joins the board. Subaru (UK): Mr Edwin Swanson has been named sales director.

CAMFORD ENGINEERING

Year to Sept 30. Div. 1.05p (0.35p) Figs in 2000. Turnover 40,659 (£3,866). Pretax profit 1,064 (623).

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Renewed strength of the dollar saw the pound drop to yet a new closing low of 70.6 (down 0.1) in the currency basket.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for company name, price, and change.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts with columns for company name, price, and change.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table of dollar spot rates for various currencies.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices for various contracts.

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

Table of authorized unit trusts with columns for trust name, price, and change.

INSURANCE BONDS AND FUNDS

Table of insurance bonds and funds with columns for fund name, price, and change.

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Table of insurance bonds and funds with columns for fund name, price, and change.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, including 'Shapit', 'aded opti', 'BUDS BREWERY', and 'EXCE HIGH INC'.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares climb back over 1,000 as pit and interest rate fears recede

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Shares climbed back above the 1,000-point mark yesterday. Receding fears of higher interest rates and expectations that the pit dispute will be over within a week had the stock market in a buoyant mood from the start.

At the close, the FT 30 share index registered an 11.1-point gain to 1,002.8. It first passed 1,000 on Friday last week and has finished below that level only once since then.

The account, which ended yesterday, started with the FT 30 index at 968.3. It has been one of the most volatile accounts in recent history. Besides embracing the 1,000 achievement it also took in the record worst one-day fall when, in value terms, more than £4,500 million was wiped off shares.

New-time buying was a factor behind yesterday's progress with many of the market's takeover favourites attracting attention. Oil was strong awaiting Monday's Opec meeting. The expected price cut has already been discounted by the market.

Government stocks ended with gains of up to 1/2%. A slightly easier pound towards the close and £250 million worth of index-linked tapets took 1/2% or so off best levels. Elsewhere, BTR gained 15p

to 369p as the market awaited developments in the Dunlop Holdings saga. Dunlop rose 2 1/2% to 38p. House of Fraser jumped 18p to 338p on continuing speculation about its direction following the Al-Fayed brothers' arrival in the boardroom.

Lorcha, which continues to intrigue the market with its 29.9 per cent share of HOF and its subsequent 6 per cent purchase, was 3p higher at 180p.

USM dealings are due to start on Thursday in the shares of Consolidated Terra Investments, a property development to plant hire group which in the year to last September achieved pretax profits of £736,000. Robert Fleming and Co, the merchant banker, has placed 1.7 million shares at 105p, putting them on 7.7 times earnings. On the forecast dividend, the yield is 6.8 per cent.

There were selective gains among other stores. W. H. Smith, where a consortium bid hopes linger, was at one time 10p harder but closed with a 4p gain at 214p. Dixons Group enjoyed a late run, improving 33p to 597p. NBS Newsagents continued to reflect takeover hopes, gaining 6p to 110p, and Woolworth 7.7 times earnings. On the forecast dividend, the yield is 6.8 per cent.

Deals are due to start on Thursday in Alexander's Wear, a clothing group. The share sale, handled by Samuel Montagu, the merchant banker, has been a resounding success - 89 times oversubscribed with £384 million flooding in for shares priced at £4.3 million.

Applicants for up to 18,000 shares go into a weighted ballot for 200 shares and the rest are drastically scaled down with, for example, those who sought 70,000 to 85,000 shares having to content with 800 shares. The shares were sold at 100p a time. A first day price of about 130p seems likely.

A face lift. Fitch, which has carried out such exercises for other retail chains, gained 25p at 405p. Stocks which would benefit from the end of the miners' strike were in demand. Park rose 3/4p to 84 1/2p and Dowry Group 5p to 126p.

Associated British Ports was another to gain on next week's pit talks, improving 7p to 213p. System Designers International, computer consultants, spurred 45p to 500p on takeover talk. There were suggestions that General Electric Co was interested in bidding.

Beers were strong. Bass progressed 7p on Thursday's cheerful annual meeting comments, hitting 519p. Allied-Lyons, the beer to food group, had a helping hand from a lunch at Scrimgeour Kempf. The stockbroker, jumping 15p to 190p. Allied which reorganized its beer division recently, has limped behind the other leading breweries which have been strong in the past few months.

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Southwest Resources improved 2p to 51p as the company took a 21 per cent interest in a Hong Kong company involved in the oil back-up business. An £8 million rights issue - on a three for five ratio at 40p - is planned. Demolition, which owns 54 per cent of SWR, will take up its rights share.

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The surprising merger between Addison Communications, the design and public relations group, and Michael Page Group, which engages in financial recruitment, sent the shares of both companies bounding ahead.

Addison was 62p harder at 263p and Page rose 99p to 360p. Disappointing profits from Rayford Sangers, the electrician group, left the shares 10p down at 150p but Rao Estates, a real estate group, was 25p harder at 405p.

Shares of Ewart New Northern, an obscure property company, jumped 21p to 271p yesterday as Northcote and Co., the stockbroker, bid in the market for almost 62,000 shares at 270p. The buying was thought to be on behalf of Mr Tom Whyte, chairman and controlling shareholder of Havard Securities, the licensed dealer. He already has a share stake and may seek to lift his interest to 14.9 per cent.

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The fun was Midland Bank, stubbornly unchanged at 349p. There was considerable activity among other financial stocks. Britannia Arrow came on for renewed takeover speculation and rose 3p to 115p. Insurance shares were firm. Commercial Union, for once, failed to join in the excitement by General Accident was 17p higher at 536p. Guardian Royal Exchange rose 27p better at 670p and Royal Insurance ended 12p to the good at 575p.

Life insurers also produced a fine array of gains and insurance brokers made handsome progress. Newspaper shares moved forward again. Suggestions that United Newspapers is buying shares in the market pushed Fleet Holdings 7p better at 273p.

DRG Group had an active time but finished unchanged at 177p. Bazel, regarded by many as the most likely bidder, was 3p harder at 498p.

Allied Textiles jumped 26p to 355p on further consideration of Thursday's results. European Ferries was again firm with it, appeared, some institutional shareholders shopping for stock.

A recent stockbroker's recommendation continued to influence Metal Box, up 18p to 430p. Messum came in for belated support after its bid for Trident TV, rising 17p to 433p.

Recovery hopes helped Redman Heenan, 3 1/2p better at 16p, and Ransomes Sims and Jefferies, up on 32p to 490p ahead of figures, due soon. Muirhead, the electronics group, was also active ahead of expected results, rising 8p to 176p.

Steel, which is now targeting F. H. Lloyd, the steel group after selling its shareholding in James Neill, the machine tool group, up on 12p to 144p.

Wholesale Fittings, the electrical group, slumped 50p to 270p as profits slipped by 2 per cent.

TEMPUS

Bowater Inc's news is a 74% profit rise

The demerging last May of Bowater into Bowater Incorporated, the North American pulp and paper producer, and Bowater Industries, the British holding company with paper, building product and service activities, seems to have done neither side any harm.

Bowater Incorporated announced its 1984 results yesterday and showed a healthy 74 per cent increase in pretax profits on continuing operations to \$118.4 million (£105.7 million). The figures were much as expected. The shares added a few cents to \$23 1/2, compared with an opening price on Wall Street after the demerger of \$18.

Good demand for US paper products - Bowater Inc is the largest producer of newsprint in the US - caused a rise in operating income in the newsprint division of 24 per cent to \$83.2 million. Coated paper rose 69 per cent to \$33 million and pulp showed a massive recovery to \$23.8 million, against \$5.1 million. Estimates for 1985 are for a continued though more modest increase in profits to \$135 million pretax or \$3 a share fully diluted compared with \$25.7. Wall Street analysts have been shading back their 1985 estimates for paper and commodity product companies by anything from 10 to 50 per cent, because of the continued weakness in commodity prices and the strong dollar.

Bowater itself mentioned the difficulties of the dollar in its pulp section, where 80 per cent of output is sold overseas, and pointed out the softening of pulp prices in the last quarter of 1984. Paper company shares, however, had a run-up on Wall Street over the past couple of weeks, after being out of favour in 1984. Despite the problems of the dollar and product prices, Bowater is viewed as sufficiently well managed and with a good enough record to ride out such difficulties.

Meanwhile, its former British parent's shares rose 1p to 243p, close to their high for the year. Bowater Industries is expected to make 1984 profits of £39 million, against £27.5 million in 1983.

Page/Addison

On paper the merger between Michael Page Partnership and Addison Communications is hard to fault. It brings together two young but high-flying USM companies operating in buoyant market places, yet complementary services.

The common link is the British company finance director, who is generally the purchaser of the services offered by both Michael Page and Addison. The former specializes in financial recruitment, the latter in corporate communication.

Michael Page's great strength is its lengthy client list. It has almost 1,000 highly prized clients, but has been unable to make the most of the list because of the limitation on the services which could be offered. Addison, however, has a wide range of services but a much smaller client base. Put the two organizations together and in theory the marketing opportunities become limitless.

The idea for the merger came from two clients common to both companies who recognized the potential benefits which could accrue to the combined group. The emphasis, though, must be on the word "potential". The opportunities are clearly available to the new group to expand the existing businesses at a rate which would not have been possible as separate companies. However, it remains to be seen whether the combined management will be able to produce the results to match the hypothetical benefits.

Both companies have been inspired by shrewd and energetic chairmen - Mr Michael Page and Mr Steve Smith - and both rely for their success on the quality of their staff. In businesses which are, therefore, dominated by personalities there must be a danger of a clash which could inhibit overall performance.

The financial benefits of the merger not filter through to the profit and loss account immediately. There should be some savings on central overheads, and the combined group will be able to reduce its six London offices.

However, there will be a period of consolidation while the merger is put in place. The new group could make £2.7 million in 1985, against an estimated £2 million in 1984. It might be 1986 though, before profits truly reflect the impact of the merger.

Sangers

Few businessmen tagged with the City term "financier" are straightforward, simple souls; after all, they work in a complex world, full of subtleties or wrinkles, to use the American term - and must use highly technical means to achieve their ends. But Tom Whyte, well remembered for his role at Triumph Investment Trust which failed a decade ago, must rate as one of the more difficult money men to understand.

His latest deal at Sangers - the purchase through a rights issue of the American cosmetics group Pavion - will cost him another £3.5 million in taking up part of his rights. It will cut his stake in Sangers from 48 per cent to 30 per cent and put the Pavion president, Mr Stanley Acker, in a strong controlling position at Sangers. Meanwhile the British company will have only limited control over the progress of the US business.

Not to put too fine a point on it, the impression is that Mr Whyte is taking something of a "bitter" on the future of Sangers/Pavion. He is even selling part of his new shares at a slight discount to Mr Acker, to provide the American with an initial 5.4 per cent stake in the group.

All this, of course, relies on the ability of Pavion to maintain its growth rate. It still has only a small piece of the US cosmetics market, though it claims to be the number one in low-price cosmetics.

Traded option highlights

Business slowed markedly in traded options yesterday, with the total number of contracts dealt in just breaking through the 11,000 mark. Earlier in the week, there was a brisk 16,000-18,000 a day being bought.

British Telecom stayed high on the active list, despite an apparent slow down in the number of transactions in the ordinary share. Option dealers traded 1,447 calls and 666 puts in BT.

The FT-SE 100 contract was also popular, with 753 calls and 1,236 puts bought. Throughout the week the pattern of business on the index contract has reflected fears of a downturn for the market indices and the rest are drastically scaled down with, for example, those who sought 70,000 to 85,000 shares having to content with 800 shares.

Southwest Resources improved 2p to 51p as the company took a 21 per cent interest in a Hong Kong company involved in the oil back-up business. An £8 million rights issue - on a three for five ratio at 40p - is planned. Demolition, which owns 54 per cent of SWR, will take up its rights share.

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Brazilian economists seek to curb debt repayments

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo Economists preparing an action plan for the incoming government of Senor Tancredo Neves are reported to have called for Brazil's interest payments to be capitalized. They believe it is not feasible for Brazil to pay an amount - between \$11 and \$12.5 billion (£9.9 and £11.2 billion) this year - equivalent to at least the surplus in visible trade.

Senior Neves has come out firmly against calling a moratorium, which he says would invite intolerable reprisals by creditors. But he also says the debt "cannot be paid with people's hunger". He will talk about the debt when he sees President Reagan in Washington on February 3, when talks on the renegotiation of \$43 billion of the \$100 billion debt resume with New York bankers. Negotiations adjourned last week, with disagreements over the spread above the interest rate which Brazil is to pay. The bankers want 1.25 per cent; Brazil wants to pay less than 1 per cent.

Hampton in £9m deal

Hampton Gold Mining Areas, of London, is taking 38.7 per cent stakes in Centennial and Marathon, two companies with which it has been involved in seeking gold and other minerals in a 400 square mile area of north-west Colorado. The deal forms part of a restructuring of Hampton's interests in the project and will involve an outlay of around £9 million. As part of the arrangement, Hampton will be able to nominate representatives to the boards of the two companies.

Nationwide Building Society (Incorporated in England under the Building Societies Act 1974) Placing of £17,500,000 12 per cent Bonds due 3rd February 1986. Listing for the bonds has been granted by the Council of The Stock Exchange. Listing Particulars in relation to The Nationwide Building Society are available in the Exel Statistical Services. Copies may be obtained from Companies Announcements Office, PO. Box No. 119, The Stock Exchange, London EC2P 2BT until 29th January 1985 and until 15th February 1985 from:-

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TRANS-OCEANIC TRUST: Mr Ashley Ponsonby, the chairman, expresses doubts about the prospects for future falls in British interest rates to the current level of a week under 8 per cent, but in his annual statement, he is more optimistic about other European economies and says there seems to be potential for capital appreciation in equities as well as in currencies like the Deutschmark. ROBERT HORNE GROUP: Mr Kenneth Horne, the chairman, reports that in the company's first year as a publicly quoted company it has produced record results. The current year has also started well with all subsidiaries showing improvements on a year ago. The company is presently negotiating to purchase additional land adjacent to its headquarters which will allow it to cater for further expansion. DENNEMANS ELECTRICAL: Final 2.25p, MFG 3.5p in line with forecast for year to Sept 30. Figs in £000. Turnover 17,608 (15,605). Tax 398 (275). Extramad. DBT. 71 (Nil). EPS 13.38p (15.44p). TI GROUP has announced a further expansion of its aircraft engine ring business. King Fifth Wheel, a TI wholly owned subsidiary in the US, will establish a factory in Orillia, Ontario, Canada, to manufacture and machine jet engine rings, principally for Pratt and Whitney Canada. SOUTH WEST RESOURCES: has bought a 25 per cent interest in Arinfi Pacific, a listed and recently reorganized Hong Kong company which is mainly involved in the supply to and servicing of the oil industry in the Far East, including mainland China. Southwest is acquiring 11 per cent of the interest through a \$4 million purchase for cash and 14 per cent in exchange for Southwest's existing TI participation interests. Southwest will finance the cash cost of the acquisition through a three-for-five rights issue at 40p per share, to raise just under £8 million. BRITISH BLOODSTOCK AGENCY: half-year to Sept 30. Intm. 2.5p (nil). Figs in £000. Turnover 2,099 (1,845). Pretax profit 431 (396). Tax 216 (206). Minority interest 33 (14). EPS 6.3p (6p). DOBSON PARK INDUSTRIES: In his annual statement, the chairman says that the group's recovery has been seriously inhibited by the coal dispute. As long as the miners' strike continues, the contribution from the mining machinery operations will be affected. Short-term measures are being taken to minimize the consequences. ROBERT HORNE GROUP: Mr Kenneth Horne, the chairman, reports that in the company's first year as a publicly quoted company it has produced record results. The current year has also started well with all subsidiaries showing improvements on a year ago. The company is presently negotiating to purchase additional land adjacent to its headquarters which will allow it to cater for further expansion.

Montagu Investment Management Ltd. Daily Dealing Prices as at 25th January 1985. Table with columns for Bid, Offer, and % Change for various stocks like Anglo Pacific, Anglo Siam, Anglo Overseas, etc.

Base Lending Rates. Table showing rates for various banks: ABN Bank (12%), Adams & Company (12%), Barclays (12%), BCCI (12%), Citibank Savings (12%), Consolidated Creds (12%), Continental Trust (12%), C. Hoare & Co. (12%), Lloyds Bank (12%), Midland Bank (12%), Nat Westminster (12%), Williams & Glyn's (12%), Citibank NA (12%).

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SAVINGS

The money shop reappears

In the early seventies, when a former Conservative administration was promoting greater competitiveness in financial services (remember Competition and Credit Control), a rash of new-style Money Shops sprang up. They all but disappeared in the financial collapse of 1974, but proving that there is no such thing as an original idea. R. J. Temple, the investment adviser, has unveiled "the UK's first high street savings and investment shop of its kind" in Glasgow.

Save and Invest shops - the Glasgow opening is the first of several planned by R. J. Temple - will open six days a week offering "a comprehensive range of savings and investment services".

Mr Jeffrey Deans, previously a regional investment manager for R. J. Temple, will be running the Glasgow Save and Invest shop.

The new shop is at 161 Hope Street in central Glasgow.

Clearly, anyone who has not taken out a personal pension plan and is eligible to do so should act before March 19. If the Budget does abolish some or all of the generous tax reliefs on personal pension contributions, those that sign up with a regular premium plan before the Budget should keep their privileges intact - as did those who scrambled into unit-linked and endowment savings life insurance plans at this time last year.

Higher rate taxpayers should also be looking at pension mortgages - the increasingly popular and tax-efficient way of funding both your home loan and your eventual pension.

The principle of the pension mortgage is quite simple, and similar in many ways to an endowment mortgage. You pay interest only on the home loan - at a slightly higher rate than the straightforward repayment. But you take out a pension policy maturing when the loan is repayable.

The mortgage is pitched to run to retirement when the capital is paid off using the tax-free lump sum that can be commuted under Inland Rev-

enue rules, leaving the ongoing pension entitlement intact. You have to leave a residual pension of at least three times the commuted lump sum. You can, of course, fund the pension to leave you tax-free cash over and above the amount required to pay off the mortgage.

There are a number of tax advantages. Anyone who is self-employed or in non-pensionable employment is eligible for full tax relief on the pension contributions. It is worth remembering that there is now no tax relief on new endowment mortgages. The money invested in a personal pension fund rolls up tax free - unlike insurance company funds.

This means, effectively, that it takes less gross contribution to create the capital required to pay off the loan if you take the pension, as opposed to the endowment mortgage route.

The table demonstrates how tax-efficient a pension mortgage can be for the higher rate payer. The net cost of funding both mortgage and pension for the 50 per cent taxpayer is lower than the amount paid by the basic rate taxpayer on his or her repayment mortgage, which frankly seems unfair. The figures for lump-sum and pension entitlements are based on an anticipated growth rate of 10 per cent a year.

Surprisingly, the pension offices say there has not been an enormous demand for the pension mortgage despite its obvious attractions.

Save & Prosper's Mr David Butcher says: "We have to be careful who we sell to. Really it's for the self-employed paying higher rate tax on a fairly steady income. It certainly isn't for everyone."

Mr Peter Duplock at Legal & General shares the view. "One problem is that we don't really know how the Budget will affect the pension mortgage. If the Chancellor decides to 'tax the commuted lump-sum', it is clearly going to mean that the individual will have to make higher contributions to achieve that objective. The same thing applies if he makes the pension investment funds pay tax internally."

PENSIONS

Budget threat to tax privileges

MARK'S NOT ONLY WORRIED ABOUT OLD AGE, HE'S ALSO WORRIED ABOUT COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE...



Mr Dennis Garnesier of Schroder says: "In view of all the uncertainty, we haven't been pushing pension mortgages. But we do believe that if people are thinking of doing something anyway, they are not going to lose out by doing it before the Budget."

Most building societies will accept a pension mortgage. You can enquire there, or go to an insurance broker or an accountant. Some building societies like the Abbey National will accept only with-profits pension plans, but not unit-linked. All the building societies will insist on dealing with a life office of which they approve.

With your mortgage on the line as well as your comfort in old age you should be doubly concerned about comparative performance, too.

The table shows the best performing unit-linked and with-profits plans over the last five years.

Investment Managers Target soars head and shoulders above all rivals in the pensions field coming, once again, top of the performance league table in the Money Magazine annual survey of personal pensions.

A £500-a-year premium paid into Target's managed pension

fund would produce a fund of £6,771 over five years which would buy an annual pension of £908 a year. Target's nearest rival, London & Manchester Investment Trust Pension Fund would have shown a fund of

£5,574 over five years which would buy an annual pension of £774.

Mr Niall Sweeney, editor of Money Magazine, said: "The difference between the Target fund and the worst performer, M. & G Property, which produced a fund and pension of under half Target's payout would make a very substantial difference to people's standard of living in retirement."

Fears of a Budget cutback in tax reliefs on personal pension plans have precipitated a rush to buy and the insurance companies which market these schemes are cashing in on the rush.

"The trouble is, personal pension schemes are sold without the buyer having any means of comparing benefits with what may be available from other companies," said Mr Sweeney, and added: "The survey highlights the importance of picking the right pension scheme. If you are sold the wrong one, it could more than halve your income in retirement."

Copies of the February issue of Money Magazine, containing the personal pensions survey can be obtained from 8a West Smithfield, London EC1A 9JR. Price £1.50 including postage.

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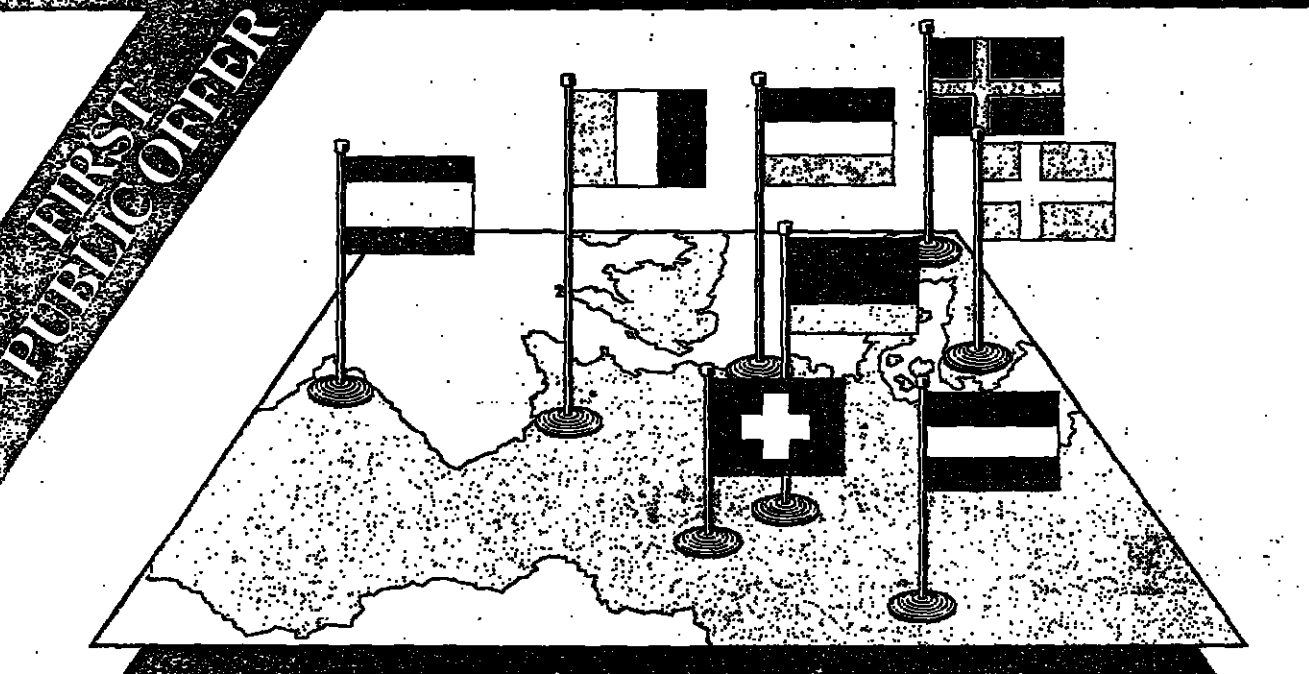
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An investment idea whose time has come.

THE RIGHT AREA

Important developments are taking place on the Stock Markets of Continental Europe.

In many countries there has been a fundamental reassessment of the role and value of share investment as a means of financing industrial development. As a result, many new companies have been encouraged to seek quotations, and there has been a dramatic increase in international interest in European markets. Already Europe accounts for about 9.5% of the total value of world stock markets - and it is expected that this proportion will increase rapidly over the years ahead.

THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITIES

A fundamental consequence of these changes is that the shares of many more small companies are now quoted on Europe's stock markets. And in several countries local equivalents of our Unlisted Securities Market have been developed specifically to help smaller companies come to the market.

Such companies often operate in technologically advanced industries and because of their size tend to be relatively free from external interference and to be able to continue to work on high profit margins. Elsewhere in the world, smaller companies have shown much greater than average growth - a fact clearly instanced by the long term

performance of Henderson American Smaller Companies Trust which has achieved 304% growth over 6 years since its launch in 1978.

At Henderson we believe the time is right to invest in the smaller companies of Europe and we are now launching a new unit trust to enable you to do just that.

THE RIGHT MANAGERS

The objective of Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust is to achieve above average growth through investment in the shares of companies quoted on the stock markets of Europe (excl. the U.K.) and which have capitalisation of less than £60 million. The estimated gross annual yield will be 1.0%.

The trust will be managed by the same team that manages over £2.3 billion of investors' funds and which has an outstanding track record of international investment performance. The Henderson European Trust, for example, has (including reinvested net income) achieved an increase in value of 486% over the last 10 years. At the present time, the Group currently has over £70 million invested in Continental Europe.

The managers plan to spread the new trust's portfolio broadly and to manage it actively. Initially, the portfolio is expected to be distributed: France 30%, Norway 25%, Germany 10%, Holland 10%, Sweden 5%, Switzerland 5%, Belgium 5%, others (including Spain, Denmark, Austria, Italy and Finland) 10%.

THE RIGHT IDEA

If you share our view that Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust is an idea whose time has come you can invest at the fixed launch offer price of 50p per unit, simply by returning the application form below, together with your cheque either directly to the managers or through your professional adviser by Friday, 15th February 1985.

You should remember however that the price of units in a unit trust and the income from them can go down as well as up and that you should regard your investment as long term.

*offer to offer basis net income reinvested to 21/1/85

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

An initial charge of 5 1/2% on the assets (equivalent to 5% of the issue price) is made by the managers when units are issued. Out of the initial charge, managers pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries; rates available on request.

The Trust Deed provides for an annual charge of 1 1/2% (plus VAT) on the value of the Trust to be deducted from the gross income to cover administration costs.

Distributions of income will be paid on 10th December each year, net of basic rate tax.

Contract notes will be issued and unit certificates will be provided within eight weeks of payment. To sell units endorse your certificate and send it to the managers. Payment will normally be made within seven working days.

Unit trusts are not subject to capital gains tax, moreover a unit holder will not pay this tax on a disposal of units unless the total realised gains from all sources in his tax year amount to more than £5,000. Prices and yields can be found daily in the Financial Times.

Trustee: Midland Bank Trust Co. Limited, 119 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1JQ.

Managers: Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited, 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DA. Registered Office: 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DA. Registration Number: 89228 England. A member of the Unit Trust Association.

Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust

To: Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited, Dealing Department, 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1AA. Telephone: 01-638 575.

I/We wish to buy _____ units in Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust at the fixed price of 50p per unit. (Minimum initial investment £500.) I/We enclose remittance of £ _____ payable to Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited.

This offer will close 15th February 1985. After the close of this offer, units will be available at the daily quoted price. If there are joint applicants each must sign and attach names and addresses separately. Broker Stamp: _____

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____ First Name(s) _____
Address _____
Signature(s) _____ Date _____

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Tax rate	30%	50%	Tax rate	30%	50%
Gross monthly interest	331.25	331.25	Gross monthly repayment	341.10	341.10
Net monthly interest	231.88	185.62	Net monthly interest	231.88	185.63
Pension contributions gross	84.74	84.74	Endowment premium	49.70	49.70
Pension contributions net	59.32	42.37	Total Net monthly cost	281.58	215.33
Total net monthly cost	291.20	207.99	Eventual benefits		
Tax-free benefits	30,000	30,000	Tax-free lump sum	£3,640	£3,440*
Annual pension	9,491	9,491			

*used to repay loan

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FAMILY MONEY

Cheapest loan

This week has seen a rash of rate change announcements from the building societies, while the banks, meanwhile, have stood back and waited to see where interest rates will settle.

Cheapest home loans on offer at the moment are from NatWest, which has raised its mortgage rate to 12.875 per cent. On a £200,000 NatWest home loan over 25 years, monthly repayments net £181.12, compared with the old repayment of £150.08.

Of the building societies, Woolwich and Nationwide (neither of which operates a differential system for larger loans) are cheapest, charging 12.875 per cent for mortgages. Because of differences in the way that banks and building societies calculate mortgage interest payments, Nationwide and Woolwich are in fact slightly more expensive than NatWest, though all quote the same rate.

Monthly repayments on a £200,000 loan over 25 years from Nationwide and Woolwich work out at £189.80. Halifax is most expensive of the major societies for loans over £30,000, charging 14 per cent.

Anglia also charges 14 per cent - but only if you want to borrow £80,000 or more.

With the building societies flush with funds, it seems likely that differentials will be reduced or even removed if they have a good time in the higher interest rates. There are no queues, and you can generally borrow up to the maximum.

Armchair banking

Bank of Scotland customers can now pay regular bills and carry out a range of banking transactions from the comfort of an armchair. The home banking system launched by Bank of Scotland this week links customers to the bank through British Telecom's Prestel network. Apart from subscribing to Prestel, customers

only need a television and a special keyboard or home computer. One of the attractions of the service, for which the bank charges £2.50 a month, is the near-instant account. This pays competitive rates ranging from 3 per cent below base rate (at present 12 per cent) on sums under £1,000 to 1 per cent below on sums of more than £2,500.

With the home banking system, customers can switch money easily between accounts by punching in instructions on their keyboards, thereby ensuring they do not have money lying idle in their current account when it could be earning interest.

Drink survey

A survey of adults in the Irish Republic, carried out on behalf of an international insurance company, Ansvr, reveals that nearly a third of adults in the Republic say they never drink alcohol, compared with only 12 per cent in Britain.

The conclusion reached by Ansvr, insurers specialising in policies for non-drinkers, was that the Irish were a better risk than Britons. The alternative, of course, could be that British interviewees were more open than their Irish counterparts.

Credit cards guard

As fraud associated with credit cards continues to increase a company called Credit Card Sentinel is offering high speed notification of lost and stolen credit cards. The service costs £6 a year and includes computer registration of credit, cheque and cash cards, besides instant notification to the issuers when a card is lost. It also offers a degree of protection against fraudulent use, a £200 emergency cash fund and a replacement card service.

The company claims to have expanded its international membership by 400 per cent during the last two years. It has been operating for 16 years, and now has more than 1.5 million clients worldwide, with 14.5 million credit cards registered. The company is endorsed by more than 260 credit card issuers. Details can be obtained from Credit Card

Divorce tax guide

A free booklet published by Kemwright & Cox, the matrimonial lawyers, could come in handy for anyone embroiled in the problems of divorce. Tax and Divorce, which follows the same format as A Simple Guide to Divorce published a few months ago, sets out to explain the financial implications of divorce in plain language. Though it is not intended as a do-it-yourself guide it could help people understand the tax laws involved before consulting solicitors and accountants.

The booklet explains ways of avoiding an unnecessary amount of tax. This can both lighten the weight of maintenance payments and provide more income for divorced women who may have children to look after.

Both booklets are available free from Kemwright & Cox, 38 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1EL. (Tel: 01-242-0872).

Retirement advice

Pre-retirement courses are being arranged by Commercial Union at its training centre at Douce Manor, West Malling in Kent. Mr Paul Hill, of Paul Hill Associates, who runs the course for Commercial Union, says: "Many people fear retirement as the time when they are cast aside. But this should not be the case. Properly approached, retirement is another career - a career of living that can be even more fulfilling, that can offer as much, if not more, than a person's working life."

Topics covered during the three-day residential course include retirement issues in perspective, paid work, self-employment, starting your own business, voluntary work, educational ideas, creative use of leisure time, financial planning and a host of other subjects.

A regular schedule of courses starting late next month has been set up and details are available from Mr Ray Morley, Commercial Union, St Helens, 1 Underneath, London EC3P 3DD. (Tel: 01 283 7500).



David Liss: Called in to improve trusts' record

Chieftain's new chief

Good news for unit holders in Chieftain trusts: with the takeover of Chieftain by the Baltic group, Mr David Liss, formerly with the Target Group, is to take up the reins as investment director.

Investment performances of Chieftain trusts so far can only be described as dismal, with Chieftain funds near the bottom of every sector. Chieftain Smaller Companies is 87th of 92 UK Growth Trusts over the past 12 months; Chieftain Income and Growth and Chieftain High Income, 56th and 81st of 81 funds; Chieftain Gilt and Fixed Interest twelfth of 34 trusts; Chieftain Basic Resources thirtieth of 30 commodity funds; Chieftain International and Chieftain Global Recovery 74th and 61st respectively of 77 international funds; Chieftain American sixteenth of 82 trusts; Chieftain Far Eastern 26th of 33; and Chieftain Australian eleventh of 12 Australian funds.

It should not be too difficult for Mr Liss to improve on that sort of track record, so investors should hang on to their units.

Guaranteed Bond

Time Assurance Society is offering a five-year Guaranteed Bond which can provide either income or capital growth. It yields 9 per cent a year net of basic rate tax (equalling 12.86 per cent gross). With a minimum investment of £1,000 and a maximum of £50,000 it is available to anyone aged between 20 and 80. An investment of £5,000 will provide an income of £450 each year for five years with the initial investment returned at maturity. Alternatively, the investor can choose to take no income and receive £7,793 when the bond matures. Details can be obtained from Time Assurance (Tel: 061-624 7299).

Advice for investors

Everyone seems keen to woo the small private investor, and barely a day goes by without some institution announcing a new service or product aimed at this market.

Deloitte Haskins & Sells, the international accounting firm, has just set up a Personal Financial Planning Division to provide not only tax advice but a comprehensive financial planning service for directors and senior executives, professional partnerships, owner-managed businesses, Lloyds underwriters and landowners.

Service will be available throughout the UK and Channel Islands from London and 13 company offices including Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh and Bradford. Advice on tax, business expansion schemes, share options, tax shelters, retirement planning, estate planning and general investment are offered. "We now have 130 partners and staff working in Personal Financial Planning, including 70 in London", said Mr Malcolm Rodley, who will head the new division.

Full details from Deloitte Haskins & Sells, PO Box 507, 128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4 4JX. (Tel: 01-233 6500).

Savers offer

A new commission-free regular savings scheme is on offer from Brown Shipley Fund Management, the unit trust and portfolio management arm of the merchant bank.

Unlike many other schemes, Brown Shipley is paying no commission to salesmen who promote it; all payments throughout the scheme's life will benefit from a bonus unit allocation of 3 per cent. Savers can invest in any of the nine Brown Shipley unit trusts at a minimum £20 a month. Lump sum additions can be made, and as soon as £250 accumulates in one fund, contributions can be diverted to another. The absence of intermediaries' commission and the 3 per cent bonus ensures a high level of investment for each contribution. Paul Tait, managing director of BSFM, points out:

Over the past year Brown Shipley funds have turned in respectable if not dazzling performances, with most funds setting in the middle of the league. Full details from Brown Shipley & Co Ltd, Rockwood House, 9/17 Perrywood Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex. (Tel: 0444 458144)

Home loans at 10%

Buyers of an Algey home will have their mortgage rate fixed at 10 per cent for the first 12 months, a big discount on the 13 per cent and more than some building societies are charging.

As well as the frozen home loan rate, discounts of up to £2,500 on early exchange of contracts and 100 per cent loans are available. Further information from: Mr Ray Allsop, Sales Manager, Algey Homes, 1a South Street, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1EL. (Tel: 0403 51961).

HOME REPAIRS

Guaranteed protection plan hailed

Guaranteed Treatments Protection Trust, aimed at protecting house holders having work done on damp proofing and wood preservation, was told this week by Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, that its scheme was a step in the right direction.

He added: "There is still some way to go, both in protecting the consumer and in restoring consumer confidence in the industry."

For a year 20-year cover against a company going bust and dishonouring its guarantee on work done has been offered by members of the Trust, set up by the British Wood Preserving Association and the British Chemical Damp Course Association. Out of the two associations' 240 overall membership 130 are Trust members so far.

The Trust has taken out actual insurance cover for three years, largely it says because of the impracticality in the insurance market of taking out cover for a longer period. It intends to renew the cover and aims to stand by the promise of 20 years protection partly through insurance and partly by building up its own trust fund.

Derek Harris

Advertisement for Calculus Finance with interest rates of 15% and 10.5%.

Advertisement for Choosing a Unit Trust, mentioning 500 authorised unit trusts.

Advertisement for Containerworld Services Ltd High Income Plan, featuring a 17% interest rate.

Advertisement for Peckham Building Society Super Share Account, featuring a 9.75% contractual rate.

Large advertisement for Abbey National Seven Day Accounts, featuring a cartoon illustration of a bus and the headline 'If you're not at Abbey Seven Day level, you could be losing money'.

FAMILY MONEY

US wins experts' vote as best bet for

The Times Unit Trust Competition 1985

1. Competitors are invited to use their skill and judgement to select three UK authorised unit trusts (not offshore funds) in existence as at January 1985 which they believe will outperform all others during 1985.
2. Competitors will be required to make a first, second and third choice, but the winner will be the competitor whose first choice is the best performing unit trust. Second and third choices will be taken into account only in the event of a tie. In the event of there still being more than one winner the tie-breaker will be invoked.
3. Entries will be limited to one per person and must be made on official entry forms printed in *The Times*. Photocopies are not acceptable.
4. Opening prices will be those published on Friday, February 1 1985. Closing prices will be those of Tuesday, December 31st, 1985.
5. In the event of unit trusts merging, final performance will be calculated as performance to the date of merger, plus performance of the merged trust to the end of the competition period.
6. Performance will be monitored by *Planned Savings* Magazine and is based on an offer to purchase price basis, net income reinvested.
7. Entries must be received by Thursday 31 January, at the office of *The Times*.
8. Proof of posting will not be accepted as evidence of receipt.
9. Employees of *News International*, *Times Newspapers*, and their families are not eligible to enter.
10. The editors' decision in all matters is final and no correspondence will be entered into.



America is number one for Jamie Berry (left): "The best value for money and we also favour Europe". Hong Kong gambler for Charles Fry: Hedging his bets with M & G American Recovery - "likely to show substantial gains if the Dow moves up to 1,400".

America is still the most popular choice for making profits in the coming year with five of the nine trusts chosen by our panel of experts for the 1985 Times Unit Trust Competition being invested in the United States.

Not all the experts have put America in first place - although all four have included an American trust in their selections.

Both Mr Jamie Berry and Mr Peter Hargreaves have opted for North America as a first choice. "This is the third consecutive year we have made an American fund our first choice", Mr Hargreaves said. "This year we have chosen a new small fund which is being managed by an insurance company, Sun Alliance, which runs funds with many millions of pounds in the United States."

"No market will be capable of a sustained upward move without a lead from America and we prefer to invest in areas where shares are less highly rated than in the United Kingdom and Japan. Best value for money is America and we also favour Europe."

His second choice is Oppenheimer European Growth with Henderson North American in third place.

Most daring of the three panelists is Mr Charles Fry, who has taken a big gamble with Gartmore Hong Kong. The last panelist who chose a Hong Kong fund - did badly and lost his place. "Gartmore Hong Kong gives total exposure to a market with considerable scope for profit. Property prices are firming, interest rates falling, political stability is assured and the residents work as hard as ever."

HOW TO ENTER

This is the last chance to enter *The Times* Unit Trust Competition and win £500. The experts' selections are reviewed above, but remember, they are not always right. To help you make your choice we have printed the performance figures of unit trusts over 11 months of the 1984 competition on page 30.

This is not a complete list of all unit trusts on offer as some will have been launched during the course of the year and will therefore not have a record. A complete list of unit trusts is on page 22.

Fill in the coupon and return it to *The Times* not later than next Thursday. Mark your envelope *Times Unit Trust Competition*.

THE UNIT TRUST EXPERTS' SELECTIONS FOR 1985

Panel member	First choice	Second choice	Third choice
Jamie Berry	Fidelity American Equity Income	Oppenheimer European Growth	Henderson North American
Berry Asset Management	Profitic High Income	Henderson American Recovery	Montagu Gold
Peter Edwards	Sun Alliance North American	John Goveitt UK Special Opportunities	Henderson European Smaller Companies
Premier Unit Trust Brokers	Gartmore Hong Kong	M&G American Recovery	Barrington European
Peter Hargreaves	Sun Alliance North American	John Goveitt UK Special Opportunities	Henderson European Smaller Companies
Hargreaves Lansdowne	Gartmore Hong Kong	M&G American Recovery	Barrington European
Charles Fry	Gartmore Hong Kong	M&G American Recovery	Barrington European
Johnson Fry & Co			

This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for or to purchase any securities

CONNOISSEUR WINES plc

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1981 - No 1802093)

Connoisseur Wines plc is a shipper and distributor of wines to the wholesale and restaurant and catering trades. The Group also sells to private customers and holds the exclusive UK agency for, among others, Jean Cordillac.

Offer for Subscription

Under the Terms of the Business Expansion Scheme by

The Guidehouse Group plc

of

700,000 Ordinary Shares of 10p each at 60p per share payable in full on application.

The subscription lists will open at 10.00 am on Friday, 25th January 1985 and will be closed when the Offer is fully subscribed or at midnight on 3rd March 1985, unless extended prior to that date. No application has been or is proposed to be made for any part of the Company's share capital to be admitted to the Official List of the Stock Exchange or to the Unlisted Securities Market. Guidehouse Securities Limited has undertaken to arrange for an Over-the-Counter Market to be made in the Ordinary Shares of the Company within one month of the closing date of this Offer. Applications for and copies of the prospectus dated 22nd January 1985, upon the terms of which alone applications can be made, can be obtained from:

THE GUIDEHOUSE GROUP plc
Vestry House, Greyfriars Passage, Newgate Street, London EC1A 7BA. 01-606 6321

Attempt to ease pension fears

LAWSON'S PLEDGE ON PENSIONS

Pension hint by cautious Lawson

BUDGET THREAT TO THE SELF EMPLOYED

and those not in Company Pension Schemes

3 Vital Questions to answer before Budget Day, March 19.

1. Are you aware that under current legislation the size of your tax-free retirement nest egg is restricted by Parliament?
2. Did you know that the Chancellor is rumoured to be considering taxing this sum in the future?
3. Are you aware that a new Pension 'Extra Cash' Account can provide up to 54% more tax-free cash than existing plans... and with the full support of the Inland Revenue?

Please rush me details of how I can boost my tax-free nest egg on retirement by up to 54%.

Time Assurance GET TIME ON YOUR SIDE

Send this coupon now (no stamp needed) for full details without obligation to Time Assurance Society, FREEPOST, Oldham OL1 7YA, or telephone (061) 624 7299.

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Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____
Occupation: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Time Assurance Society, One of the largest Friendly Societies with assets exceeding £100,000,000.

ACADEMY

Private Managed Fund Launched 11th June 1984

Growth to Date **24.5% net** in just seven months

For further information on this and other investment opportunities send for free brochure to:

Academy Insurance Brokers

(Investment Division) Ltd,
71 Main Street, Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 7DF
Tel: 0928 35666

Name: _____
Address: _____

If you're about to invest in a pension plan make sure it's the best on the market.

Target Managed £6,949

NATIONAL PROVIDENT £4,185

HAMBRO £4,357

EQUITABLE £1,403

ABBEE £5,095

M&G £5,402

Value of Fund over 5 years assuming 6 annual premiums of £50 each

Amount Invested: £3,100 (Allowing for tax relief at 30%)

Source: Self Employed Pensions Handbook - published by the Financial Times.

"The accumulated cash sum results show unit-linked funds occupying the top three positions, with Target Managed way out in front."

"There is no doubt that investors who had the fore-sight or luck to put money in the Target Managed Fund deserve a large dose of self-congratulation."

"One Company, Target Life, can actually boast an investment record that is so superior that it can afford to pay twice the pension of some of the others."

Target stole a march on its rivals, because the Managed Fund holds investments directly rather than putting money into other unit-linked funds within the group."

"The top cash fund for retirement at age 65 comes from Target Life's Managed Fund with a spectacularly good figure. This is clearly no fluke result since the same fund swept the honours board in our October 1982 survey."

Source: Money Management - June 1984.

"Indeed the best performing contract in the survey was linked to Target's Managed Fund."

The Times - Saturday 2nd June 1984
The Daily Telegraph - Saturday 17th March 1984
The Daily Telegraph - Saturday 18th January 1985

Invest in one of this country's Top Performing Unit Trusts.

Planned Savings

Over five years the investment trust share performances show up even better. Although M.L.A. the best unit trust, is far ahead of the rest of the field all the other trusts in the table are comfortably outpaced by investment trust shares - by over 40% in some cases. But on asset performance the investment trusts fall far behind: Berry, the top of the list, is over 120% below M.L.A.

June 1984

MONEY OBSERVER

The honour for the best performing fund over seven years goes to M.L.A., a UK general fund. It has produced a handsome gain of 1,009 per cent over that period, a success that denied Framlington International Recovery the top honour.

March 1984

General Trusts and has earned it the confidence of professionals, both investors and advisers.

HELP IMPROVE YOUR EXISTING INVESTMENT STRATEGY

You too could benefit from their success by investing as little as £500 or as much as you like. You will receive a 1% discount on your investment.

And to complement your existing portfolio, a regular income withdrawal plan is now also available. Ring for details.

Investment in unit trusts should be regarded as long term and you are reminded that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Price and Yield of M.L.A. Unit Trust as at 18.1.85
Offer Price: 273.5p (ad)
Yield: 2.05%

PROFESSIONAL FUND MANAGERS WITH A PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Investing in M.L.A. Unit Trust means you will be able to enjoy the support of one of this country's top investment fund management teams. The extracts above illustrate how successful their performance has been over the last 8½ years.

£10,000 HAS GROWN TO £131,530

£10,000 invested with these Managers in June 1976, when they launched their highly successful M.L.A. Unit Trust, had grown in value to a staggering £131,530 by 8th January 1985, including re-invested income. This represents an increase of 1215% on that original investment.

THE AIM OF THE FUND MANAGERS

This success is due to the Fund Managers' freedom within the terms of the Trust Deed to invest wherever they consider they will obtain the maximum growth for investors in terms of capital and income growth. This freedom is highlighted by the team's achievement in putting M.L.A. in the top position over a period of 3, 5 and 7 years* among all UK

THE FUND HAS ACHIEVED AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE IN THE VALUE OF UNITS OF 33.3%* OVER THE LAST 8 YEARS*

Performance of M.L.A. Unit Trust (including re-invested income)

including re-invested income *Source: Money Management January 1985.

MANAGERS: M.L.A. Unit Trust Management Ltd., part of the Municipal Mutual Insurance Group, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9JG.
TRUSTEE: Midland Bank Trust Company Ltd., 19 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1JQ.
GENERAL INFORMATION: An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price and a half-yearly charge of 1% of one per centum (plus VAT) on the capital value of the fund is deducted from gross income to meet the expenses of the Managers. Net income is distributed on 31st January and 31st July together with a tax credit certificate and a half-yearly report. The trust is authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry and is controlled by a Trust Deed dated 11th May 1976. The fund is a limited company and the price is quoted in the FT and Daily Telegraph. Units will be dealt in cash. All orders received will be dealt with at the price ruling on the first working day following the date of receipt of instructions.

The initial purchase is £500, thereafter units may be bought in multiples of £100. Units are bought back at not less than the bid price calculated in accordance with the formula approved by the Department of Trade and Industry.
A cheque or settlement will normally be sent within seven working days of receipt by the Manager of the re-invested unit certificate.
Contact Notes will be issued and unit certificates will be provided within six weeks of payment. Unit trusts are not subject to capital gains tax.
Moreover, unit holders will also be exempt from paying this tax unless their total realized gains in any tax year exceed £5,000.
The information in the advertisements is based on our present understanding of Inland Revenue practice and current tax legislation, January 1985.

If you're self-employed or the director of a private company, you'll know all about the tax advantages of investing in a pension plan.

Your biggest problem will be selecting the best from the rest.

Obviously, the most important factor will be the size of your pension fund when you retire.

All too often, this decision is taken as a result of comparing projected growth figures, whereas the only realistic basis for comparison is achieved growth.

The table above compares the actual results of an investment in the Target Personal Pension Plan - linked to the Target Managed Pension Fund - with five of the market leaders in individual pensions.

What it doesn't show, however, is that the Target plan has out-performed all other similar plans over the last five years.

What's more, only the Target plan provides you with a guaranteed loanback facility enabling you to draw on your investment whenever you like (subject to acceptable security), with no additional management charges.

And, with Target, you're not committed to keeping up a regular payment. You can vary your level of investment to suit your personal circumstances.

Except, of course, with a growth record like ours, we think you'll want to invest more rather than less.

To find out more, fill out the Freepost coupon below.

Please let me have further information on the Target Pension Plan.

Name: _____
Age: _____ Occupation: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Business tel. no. _____
Send to: Dept MF, Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd., Freepost, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3YA. Tel: Aylesbury (0296) 5941.

TARGET TARGET GROUP PLC

UNIT TRUSTS - LIFE ASSURANCE - PENSIONS - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Application Form

To: M.L.A. Unit Trust Management Ltd., Freepost, Westminster, SW1H 9BR. Telephone: 01-222 0311

I/We would like to buy M.L.A. Units to the value of £_____ (minimum £500) at the price ruling on the date of receipt of these instructions.

A cheque payable to M.L.A. Unit Trust Management Ltd. is enclosed. I/We declare that I am/we are over 18.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title) (BLOCK LETTERS, PLEASE) _____
First name(s) in full _____
Address _____
Post Code _____

Signature(s) _____

(Joint applicants should all sign and attach addresses separately) Registered in England No. 1242681. Not available in the Republic of Ireland.

Investes

Edwards: "America's... weakens..."

Hargreaves: "F... recommend..."

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A UN WITH

The new Fleet... a 10 year savings... advantages. Pro... with Fleet Friend... Bank Group Unit... the special taxat... immediate life co... makes it a most...

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FleetBond as... insurance cover... £1500 for the... is a small red... older ages. No... required.

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Phone 01-63... ANY DAY

FAMILY MONEY

investors



Peter Edwards: "America has excellent prospects, but if the dollar weakens some fund performances could be cut".

brave person who puts this as a first choice.

Mr Fry has hedged his bets with M & B American Recovery. "This is a volatile trust, not hedged against the currency risk and likely to show very substantial gains if the Dow Jones index move up to 1,400, as I believe it will."

Mr Peter Edwards did best of our four panelists last year and he has gone for one of the top-performing Prolific funds.

"It is a toss up between Wall Street and London this year. Japan looks due for a setback - again. Hong Kong, Europe and Gold shares could all come good but probably not Australia, commodities or Singapore/Malaysia," said Mr Edwards.

"America has excellent prospects, but if the dollar weakens, some fund performances could be cut back. So we are marginally prefer the sound fundamentals at home and continue to like funds with above average yields. We choose Prolific High Income as a good example of the UK equity income sector."

Europe seems to be the compromise solution of where

to invest with all the panelists except Mr Edwards including a European fund in their selections.

"For the first time we are recommending a European unit trust," said Mr Hargreaves. "Things are changing radically in the European investment markets, better reporting, more local interest in the stock market and more importantly, American interest in European stocks, in due course, Mr Edwards was braver, opting for the Montagu Gold unit trust in third position.

Mr Fry has also included a European trust - Barrington European. "Several European markets have been modest performers in the last year but the markets are sufficiently diverse to give scope to the talents of the good manager and Barrington has an excellent European record."

Mr Fry says he resisted the temptation to go for a gold unit trust but he still thinks gold will offer considerable scope for profit. In due course, Mr Edwards was braver, opting for the Montagu Gold unit trust in third position.



Peter Hargreaves: For the first time ever we are recommending a European unit trust".

PENSIONS

Framlington add no-cost policy to unit trusts

Framlington, the top performing unit trust group, has entered the personal pensions field with a plan that looks set to knock spots off the opposition.

In a nutshell, what it has done is to wrap a personal pension policy around its unit trusts at no extra cost to the investor.

"There are no charges other than those in the unit trust and we have some of the lowest charges in the unit trust industry. We still charge only half a per cent a year," said Mr Paddy Ross, chief executive of the newly formed Framlington life. "All investment is on the single premium principle with 100 per cent invested in Framlington units".

The annual management charge with most pension policies is about 3.5 per cent. And the difference in investment performance made by low management charges is illustrated vividly with examples.

Assuming a growth rate of 10.75 per cent a year over 20 years, an investment in the new Framlington scheme would grow to £5,318; the typical pension contract, with its higher charges, would total only £3,722 over the same period.

The policy has all the usual options: investors can switch between any of Framlington's nine unit trusts, as well as a managed and cash fund. Full tax relief at your highest rate paid is available on money invested and there is a 1 per cent discount on all contributions made before April 5.

Because there are no extra pension policy charges, the

scheme is essentially an investment in Framlington unit trusts - with full tax relief.

Minimum investment is £500, and Framlington expects to take in at least £3 million. The deal is particularly attractive to Framlington unit holders who intend to hang on to their units until retirement age.

If they have unused pension relief (you can contribute up to 17.5 per cent of net relevant earnings in any one tax year) they could realise units within the £5,600 capital gains tax profit limit and reinvest - picking up the income tax relief along the way. Unused pension relief can be claimed for up to seven years past.

"The marketing emphasis will be on direct sales to the public", says Mr Ross, who believes the scheme will virtually sell itself because of Framlington's impressive investment record.

The Framlington performance leaves most other trusts standing. A single premium of £500 invested over ten years to April 1, 1984, in the best "with-profits" policy would have produced £1,914.

Invested in the best unit-linked policy, it would have grown to £3,163; and the same amount in Framlington Capital & Income Trust would be worth £5,091. If you are thinking of buying a personal pension, don't miss this one.

Details from: Framlington Life Insurance Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London W1, London EC2M 5NQ. (Tel: 01-628 5181).

Lorna Bourke

UNIT TRUSTS

Promise in growth across the Channel

Europe is favour of the month with unit trust managers who are offering two more funds, this time from Wardley and Henderson.

Wardley's European Growth Trust will be invested in a broad range of equities quoted on European exchanges and is going all out for capital growth.

Mr Gavin Roberts, chairman of Wardley Unit Trust Management, said: "Western European economies are showing consistent, if not spectacular growth and we believe that corporate profits will show a healthy increase over 1985. Profits could be as high as 10 per cent in real terms for the two largest economies, Germany and France."

Wardley has no directly comparable unit trust to the new European Growth Trust, but over the past 12 months its American fund is eighth in its sector showing an 18 per cent rise, while the Wardley Japan is sixth, showing a 30 per cent increase.

The latest addition to the Henderson stable now totalling

40 trusts in all, is Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust. Henderson already has a straight European trust. In recent months the existing Henderson European has not put in a sparkling performance compared with other European funds, showing a return of 12.6 per cent over the past year, while Wardley's Mercury European topped the European table with a 26.2 per cent rise. But over seven years, Henderson European leads the sector showing a rise of more than 320 per cent.

The new trust will concentrate on investing in companies of under £60 million market capitalization.

Mr Hugh Priestley, who manages the Henderson European and the new Henderson European Smaller Companies funds, says: "Initially France will account for the major part of the portfolio at some 30 per cent, but Norway with about 25 per cent and Germany and the Netherlands with 10 per cent each will be strongly represented. The remainder of the portfolio will be principally invested in Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium and other Scandinavian countries including Finland with lesser holdings in Spain, Italy and Austria."

Full details from: Henderson Unit Trust Management, 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DA. (01-638 3757). Wardley Unit Trust Managers, Wardley House, 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HN. (01-626 4411).

Cheque book, cheque card, cash card, direct debits and standing orders. What more do you want, high interest?

Of course you do. Well, that's exactly what we can give you. It comes in the shape of a Royal Bank of Scotland Premium Account.

An account that has all the payment facilities of a current account and pays money market rates of interest.

Premium Accounts are available to individuals and to clubs, associations, charities and professional firms for clients' funds. (Cheque cards and cash cards are normally available only to individuals.)

The minimum sum required to open a Premium Account is £2,500. For full details fill in the coupon.



Registered Office: 42 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE

Premium Account

Current interest rate: 11.75% per annum. (This is equivalent to an effective annual rate of 12.27%)

Application form for Premium Account with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Business, Home, and telephone numbers.



INVEST FOR THE INCOME, STAY FOR THE GROWTH

Save & Prosper's American Income & Growth Fund was the first UK authorised unit trust specifically designed to provide a high income as well as excellent prospects for capital growth from investment in the United States. With the American economy thriving, now is a good opportunity to share in its success.

Impressive performance The fund has already established itself as a highly attractive investment for both income and growth. From launch in March last year until 24th January 1985, the estimated gross yield has increased from an indicated 5.50% p.a. to an impressive 7.64% p.a. This represents the highest yield currently offered by any unit trust investing in America. From launch to 7th January 1985 the offer price of units has risen by 23.8%, compared with a rise in the Value Line All Convertible Index of 22.2% (when adjusted for currency movements).

Attractive portfolio The fund has a portfolio of higher-yielding securities invested in the growth areas of the US economy, with the emphasis on convertible bonds and preferred shares. This means that the fund has a lower element of risk than funds invested solely in equities, while still retaining prospects of significant capital growth, both when interest rates fall and when share prices rise. Income and capital are more secure with convertibles.

Excellent prospects The US stock market is by far the largest in the world, and the market for domestic convertible bonds and preferred shares, worth over \$33 billion, is a growing and, we believe, increasingly attractive sector. Inflation in the US is under control, and the economy is continuing to expand. An investment in Save & Prosper American Income & Growth Fund, the first and largest fund of its kind, provides you with a relatively low-risk opportunity to share in the profits of this exciting market.

Invest now! Simply complete and return the coupon, together with your cheque (minimum £250). On 24th January 1985 the offer price of units was 66.3p and the estimated gross starting yield was 7.64% p.a. Remember the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

AMERICAN INCOME & GROWTH FUND

GENERAL INFORMATION Objective: To provide a portfolio of higher yielding securities invested in the growth areas of the United States economy. Dealing in units in US\$ may normally be bought or sold on any working day. Certificates will normally be forwarded within 14 days. When units are sold back to the Managers, payment is normally made within 7 days of our receiving renewed certificates. Prices and the yield are quoted daily in the Financial Times, Daily Telegraph and The Times, and on Pressed 948 1244. Net income distributions 15th June and 15th December each year. Charges initial charge: 5 1/2% plus a rounding adjustment not exceeding the lower of 1% and 1.25% per unit, which is included in the offer price of units. Redemption (at rates available on request) will be paid to authorized professional advisers. Annual charge: 1% of the value of the fund plus VAT (with a permitted maximum of 1 1/2% plus VAT). This is deducted from the fund's assets to meet Managers' expenses including Trustees' fees. Investment powers Under the Trust Deed the Managers may purchase and write traded options, subject to limitations laid down by the Department of Trade & Industry. Safeguards The fund is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry and is a "wider-range" investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Trustee: Bank of Scotland. Managers: Save & Prosper Securities Limited, 4 Great St. Helens, London. EC2P 3EP. Telephone: 0718-68986. A member of the Unit Trust Association.

Application form for American Income & Growth Fund with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Existing Account No., Signature, Date, and AGENT'S STAMP.

SAVE & PROSPER

Advertisement for FleetBond, a unique savings plan with immediate life cover. Includes details of the plan, how it works, life insurance cover, and the likely return. Contact information for Nationwide Building Society and Fleet Friendly Society is provided.

SIX MONTH TERM LIMITED ISSUE. Minimum investment £2,000. NET ANNUAL INTEREST 9.8% = 14.00%. Includes details of the investment and contact information for LEAMINGTON SPA.

Masterplan 10% - 14.29% gross p.a. when basic rate tax paid. AND THAT'S JUST FOR STARTERS. Includes details of the investment and contact information for Middleton.

FAMILY MONEY

MEDICAL COVER

BUPA in good health despite competition

The private health insurance market has been in a state of flux since the beginning of the decade with a rash of commercial companies joining the market traditionally dominated by the three provident associations, BUPA, PPP and WPA. BUPA with over 60 per cent of the market clearly had the most to lose from the intrusion of the newcomers.

Mr Bob Graham, BUPA's chief executive, said: "Many companies which were lured away by cheap quotes have returned, preferring our overall stability and high standards of service". BUPA has over 35,000 groups, including 90 of the Times Top 100 Companies. These group schemes accounts for about two-thirds of the insurers' business.

While BUPA and PPP have been tackling their problems by trying to cut costs by classifying hospitals so that subscribers pay different rates according to the class of hospital, the commercial companies have been bringing out novel cost-cutting schemes for the consumer. The CrownCare scheme, run by Crown Life, is the only one to offer a "no-claims" bonus system - something quite familiar to car owners Crown subscribers start with a nominal 20 per cent discount and can boost this to a maximum of 40 per cent discount, but any claim

would set you back by two years' discount although you would never be charged more than the basic rate.

Mr Peter Dalby, Crown's marketing manager, believes that half the claims under medical insurance are for less than £100 a year. Cutting out these claims substantially reduces the administration costs of a scheme and allows the insurers to lower premiums. Critics say that it would discourage people from seeing medical attention for their ailments, but any major illness would be worth claiming for.

Crown also cut premiums by 15 per cent if subscribers agree to pay the first £100 of any claim under the comprehensive Mastercare plan. The aftercare policy which is 30 per cent cheaper than Mastercare cuts out the frills - it does not cover out-patient treatment alone or home nursing and does not offer the £20-a-night cash benefit if you go into hospital as a National Health Service patient. As an added benefit both policies offer £50,000 of worldwide travel cover which stretches to insuring your baggage and money as well as medical fees for any trip overseas up to 90 days - with just one exception: wintersports holidays.

BCWA (Bristol Contributory Welfare Association), the fourth

largest provident society which is celebrating its golden jubilee this year, aims to have a good spread of young healthy people on its books by offering the under-30s a special deal. Their premiums will rise to the 30-41-year-old age bracket at their 30th birthday but they can stay at this rate as long as they remain members. Although BCWA customarily restricts the scheme to the under-65s, sometimes those aged 65 to 69 are taken on the books for a 33% per cent surcharge.

MEDICAL INSURANCE			
Cost for a family of four - two adults, the oldest 44, and two children. London cover.			
	Annual premium	Monthly premium	Oldest age for joining scheme
BUPA	748.80	62.40	64
PPP (Masterplan 2)	686.16	57.18	64
WPA	555.15	46.26	64
BCWA	417.90	34.82	64
Crusader	412.88	34.41	59
Mutual of Omaha	569.10	47.42	64
Crown (Mastercare)	668.76	55.73	64
Orion	487.40	40.61	60
Skandia	451.55	37.63	50

*Includes 25 per cent discount for going through a broker.
*Note: Excess of £1,000 in provinces, £1,500 in London.

and PPP are raised twice a year to keep pace with roaring "medical inflation". BCWA's January 1984 prices are still in operation although they are under review. Last year BUPA put up its rates by between 12 and 15 per cent and PPP by an average of 15 per cent.

But while PPP has only introduced its banding of hospitals into different grades for corporate policies, it has introduced a cost-cutting innovation for private subscribers. The Private Hospital Plan only pays for private hospital treat-

ment when NHS waiting lists are longer than six weeks.

A man and wife aged 30 to 39 with two children with a 15 per cent discount for being a member of a trade or professional group and paying by direct debit would pay either £30.93, £49.37 or £75.80 a month depending on the level of cover for standard PPP cover but just £18.65 a month for Private Hospital Plan.

Retirement Health Plan offers the same scheme to jump the NHS queues to new subscribers between 65 and 74 years old. The plan has an overall maximum of £17,000 and costs £13.40 a month for 69-year-olds, £18.10 for 70 to 74-year-olds and £24.20 for 75-year-olds.

While different insurance companies and different plans put different limits on bed charges and surgeons' fees, it means you have to check that the cover you choose is sufficient to meet the bills at

any of your local hospitals without leaving you out of pocket.

But Orion, the British subsidiary of a Dutch group, has a simple £20,000 limit on its insurance for you to spend as you please. "Medical insurance is a minefield", Mr Nigel Dyer, Orion's marketing manager, said. "You do not need a PhD to understand our plan and you need not worry that your level of cover is not enough". There are just two scales of premiums: one covering the South-East, the other the rest of the country.

The AMI chain with 11 hospitals in Britain has produced a booklet showing the complete range of cover offered by leading insurers for room charges and surgeons' fees. Copies of the booklet are available from AMI Hospitals, 4, Cornwall Terrace, London NW1 4QP.

Vivien Goldsmith

Achieve Maximum Capital Growth

Professional Portfolio Management is now within your reach. Until recently, asset management by professionals was available only to the extremely wealthy. Now the smaller investor, too, can come to Baltic for this expertise. With £30 million of stocks and shares already under their control, Baltic's investment managers are well-qualified to choose for you the best of more than 600 unit trusts, world-wide equities and other select investment opportunities.

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Please send me full details. I have £ _____ capital to invest (optional).
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Postcode _____
Telephone (day) _____
Baltic Asset Management Ltd, Freeport, London EC2B 2AE Tel: 01-626 1533

PREMIUM ACCESS ACCOUNT (2nd Issue)

Better this.

	BRADFORD & BINGLEY	YOUR BUILDING SOCIETY
NET INTEREST PA*	9.00%	
GROSS INTEREST PA*	12.86%	
WITHDRAWAL NOTICE	IMMEDIATE	
INTEREST LOST	No Penalty	
EXTRA INTEREST	1.50%	
MINIMUM INVESTMENT PERIOD	None	

*Interest rates are variable and assume income tax paid at 30%. Interest is calculated daily and added to the account annually.

Bradford & Bingley's Premium Access Account offers you extra interest. Without any of the extra strings.

As long as you keep £1,000 in your account, you receive 9.00% net annual interest. This rate is variable and is currently 1.5% above nominal Ordinary Account Rate, but is not linked to it.

You can also withdraw money on demand, without paying any penalties.

Should your balance fall below £1,000 you still receive the nominal Ordinary Account Rate. The maximum investment is £30,000 but

this doubles to £60,000 for a joint account. There's no obligation to invest for any length of time either.

So if you are interested in getting more for your money, take a look at Bradford & Bingley's incomparable terms.

For further information and a brochure on this or any other Bradford & Bingley investment, just telephone our Investor Advice Bureau or post the coupon today.

INVESTOR ADVICE BUREAU. DIAL 100 AND ASK FOR FREEPHONE BRADFORD & BINGLEY.

To FREEPOST (No stamp needed) Bradford & Bingley Building Society, West Yorks, BD16 2BR. Please send me full details of Premium Access Account without obligation. T261

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

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We open more doors for you

Private Medical Insurance

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BCWA's reputation is built on nearly 50 years experience and personal service in Private Medical Insurance. Throughout that time we have built up a national reputation for being "best buy" in the market.

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Bristol Contributory Welfare Association
Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6AB
Please send me details of the Private Patients Scheme
I am aged under 65 For individuals For Companies
For members of Professional/Trade Associations

Gartmore's Investment Action Report on Hong Kong

For a Free Review of the Hong Kong Stockmarket and its future prospects, from the Managers of the best performing Hong Kong Trust last year, write to:

GARTMORE
Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd., 2 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP
Tel: Freephone 2621 (24 hours) or during office hours 01-623 1212
Please send me the Hong Kong Stock Market Review

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

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8.84% net p.a.
= 12.63% gross*
Effective annual rate when half yearly interest is added

8.65% net p.a. (12.36% gross*)
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BUILDING SOCIETY
ALL VISA HOUSE, 17-19 AVON ROAD
WIMBORNE, DORSET BH21 1AG
Tel: 0292 85717

Please send investment details to:
Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Shares and deposits in the Society are Trustee Investments
Members of the Building Societies Association and
Investors' Protection Scheme.

Framlington Personal Pensions are underwritten by Framlington Life Insurance Limited, a member of Framlington Group plc. The policies have been approved by the Inland Revenue under Sections 226 and 226A of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 (as amended).

FRAMLINGTON PERSONAL PENSIONS

a better way of investing for your retirement

Anyone with a non-pensionable job can benefit from the Framlington scheme. The main features which mark it out are as follows:

1. You do not have to commit yourself to more than one payment.
2. You can choose your own Framlington unit trusts, or invest through the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund. Either way you will benefit from Framlington's established investment management ability.
3. 100 per cent of your investment will go into Framlington unit trusts. Alternatively, you can choose a 3 per cent deduction to obtain life assurance cover.
4. You can make investments at any age under 75. You can take up your benefits at any time between age 60 and age 75.
5. You can take all your benefits as a pension or use part of your accumulated fund to provide a cash sum on your retirement, as you wish.
6. The value of your pension (including the optional cash sum) will always be the full value of the units allocated to your Framlington Personal Pension.
7. Your pension can be secured through an annuity from Framlington or from any other company offering better rates at the time, as you wish.
8. Contributions to Framlington Personal Pensions are normally fully allowable against tax. The whole of your investment builds up free of all income and capital gains taxes. And the optional cash sum on retirement would also be tax free.

Simplicity, flexibility, tax efficiency and investment ability are all hallmarks of the Framlington scheme. In addition, the scheme is exceptionally cost-effective. There are no charges apart from the charges within the funds.

THE INVESTMENT CHOICE

Contributions to Framlington Personal Pensions can be invested in any of nine Framlington unit trusts listed below or in the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund, which is itself invested in a spread of Framlington trusts. For standard Personal Pensions (i.e. with no guaranteed life assurance cover), 100 per cent of contributions are invested in units at the offer price ruling when your cheque is received. If you choose to have guaranteed life assurance, 97 per cent of contributions are invested.

The Framlington Unit Trusts

Name of Trust	Date Launched	Investment Objective
Capital Growth	January 1969	Capital growth with an average yield — by investing mainly in small U.K. growth companies.
American & General Fund	April 1978	Capital growth — by investing in North American smaller companies.
American Turnaround Fund	October 1979	Capital growth — by investing in North American recovery situations.
Extra Income Trust	February 1980	High income, together with some growth of both income and capital.
Convertible & Gift Trust	February 1981	High income with capital growth — by investing in convertible loan stocks and Government securities.
Recovery Trust	April 1982	Capital growth — by investing in recovery situations, mainly in the U.K.
Japan & General Fund	February 1984	Capital growth — by investing in the Far East, primarily in Japan.

The Framlington Pensions Managed Fund
Many investors will prefer to leave the selection of their investments to Framlington through the Pensions Managed Fund. This is invested in a spread of Framlington unit trusts chosen and managed by Framlington. It will be actively managed and the proportions in different trusts may vary considerably over the years. From time to time part of the fund may be held in cash through the Framlington Pensions Cash Fund.

The Framlington Pensions Cash Fund
The Pensions Cash Fund is not available for initial investment, but you can switch any of your Framlington Personal Pension policies into it without charge at any time. The fund is invested in deposits with banks and local authorities and similar investments, with the objective of obtaining the highest yield consistent with total security of capital.

Following the Progress of your Pension Investment

Your contributions will be invested in accumulation units of the Framlington unit trust (s) or in units of the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund at the offer price (s) ruling on the day your Application Form and cheque are received. The prices of the Pensions Managed Fund and all the trusts are calculated each working day and are published in several leading daily newspapers. Two prices are shown for the units of each fund: the offer price (at which units are allocated) and the bid price (which is used to determine the value of the policy).

There is only one price for the Framlington Pensions Cash Fund, which is recalculated each week (normally on Friday). This is used both for allocating units and in calculating the value of your policy.

For the Pensions Managed Fund and the Pensions Cash Fund, the gross income received is retained within the Funds and thus builds up the value of the units. For the unit trusts, the net income is retained in the funds and goes to increase the value of the units. The tax charged on the income is reclaimed from the Inland Revenue by Framlington Life and is invested in further units on your behalf.

You will be sent a statement each year showing the number and value of units allocated to your Framlington Personal Pension. Regular managers' reports for each of the trusts and for the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund and the Framlington Pensions Cash Fund will also be available from Framlington Life.

Switching between Funds

Over the years investment conditions change and you may feel that you wish to change the investment links for your Framlington Personal Pension. In particular, when you are approaching retirement, you might wish to switch to the Framlington Pensions Cash Fund. This would ensure that you would not suffer from any short-term fluctuations in the value of your accumulated pension fund immediately before your retirement. If you do decide to switch your policy(ies) to the Pensions Cash Fund, your existing units will be valued (at bid price) and this value will be applied to secure units in the Pensions Cash Fund at the price ruling on the day your instructions are received.

If you switch to the Pensions Managed Fund or to a unit trust (from another unit trust), the Pensions Managed Fund or the Pensions Cash Fund, the existing units will be valued at bid price and the units of the new Trust will be allocated at the offer price ruling on the day your instructions are received, less a discount of 3%.

It should be noted that Framlington reserves the right to vary the discount at any time in the future or to impose a charge for switching to the Pensions Cash Fund.

ELIGIBILITY

You can invest in a Framlington Personal Pension if you have any earnings from non-pensionable employment. You can therefore take out a Personal Pension if:

1. You are self-employed.
2. Your employer does not have a pension scheme.
3. Your employer has a pension scheme but you are not a member of it.
4. You are a partner in a partnership.
5. You are the sole proprietor of a business.
6. You have consultancy or other earnings (apart from your main income from employment) which are non-pensionable.

HOW MUCH ARE YOU ALLOWED TO INVEST?

The minimum investment is £500. The maximum amount you can invest is laid down by Government legislation and is based on your "net relevant earnings". These are your gross earnings (other than any earnings from employment which carries pension rights), less expenses connected with running your own business — including stock relief and capital allowances.

If you were born in 1934 or later you can contribute 17½% of your net relevant earnings to a personal pension plan. If you were born in 1933 or earlier, you can make larger contributions as shown below:

Year of Birth	Percentage of Net Relevant Earnings
1916-1933	20%
1914 or 1915	21%
1912 or 1913	24%
1910 or 1911	26½%

There are provisions for carrying back contributions to the preceding tax year and for carrying forward unused relief to a subsequent year; details are available from Framlington or from your professional adviser.

HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU INVEST?

Because of the outstanding tax advantages, it can be argued that you should invest the maximum permitted every year. On the other hand, even with tax relief you may not be able to afford the maximum.

If it were possible to make realistic projections it would be easier to suggest the amount you should invest. Many insurance companies do quote projections. In our

view, however, these can be dangerously misleading. They are normally only arithmetical projections of rates of growth and annuity rates chosen arbitrarily. They cannot cater for changes in inflation rates or variations in investment performance. We believe it is more realistic to choose as efficient as possible a scheme and then to put as much as you can into it.

As a guide, and accepting that your own personal circumstances may dictate a different proportion, we urge you to invest at least the following proportions of your net relevant earnings in personal pension plans:

Age	Percentage
Under 25	5%
25-35	10%
35-45	15%
Over 45	17½%

(If you were born in 1933 or earlier you should invest the maximum allowed).

TAX ADVANTAGES

Investing in a personal pension plan has significant tax advantages over every other method of saving and investing.

1. Tax relief on contributions
Provided your contributions fall within the rules you can obtain full income tax relief on them at the highest rate you currently pay. Thus if you are a basic rate taxpayer, a contribution of £1,000 will in effect cost you only £700. If your top rate of tax is 60% a contribution of £1,000 should cost you only £400.

2. Tax-free investment growth
Your contributions are invested by Framlington Life in units of Framlington unit trusts, either directly, or through the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund. Unit trusts are exempt from capital gains tax and so are pension plans. Pension plans are also exempt from income tax; Framlington Life is therefore able to claim back and reinvest on your behalf the income tax charged on the income distributed by the unit trusts. The Pensions Managed Fund and Pensions Cash Fund are not liable to any capital gains or income taxes.

3. Tax-free cash sum on retirement
Under current legislation you are entitled to take a cash sum, which is completely free of tax, as part of your pension.

THE BENEFITS ON RETIREMENT
No Fixed Retirement Date
You can take the benefits from your Framlington Personal Pension at any time between the ages of 60 and 75; the latest date on which you are allowed by law to start drawing your pension is your 75th birthday. You do not have to decide on your retirement date now.

If you are in an occupation where the normal retirement age is below 60, you can usually take your pension at this lower age, subject to Inland Revenue approval.

You can also take the benefits earlier than age 60 if you have to retire early because of ill-health.

At whatever age you take the benefits, the full value of your accumulated fund will be made available to you. No deductions of any sort are made on early retirement.

Pensions and Cash Sum at Retirement
At retirement you can choose between

using the whole value of your accumulated fund to provide a pension and taking part of the benefits as a tax-free cash sum, with the balance providing a pension. If you decide to take part of your benefits in cash, the amount must not be more than three times the annual pension provided by the remainder.

You may choose a pension of a fixed amount or one which starts at a lower level but escalates by a fixed percentage (up to 10%) each year. You can also choose between a pension for your lifetime alone, one guaranteed for 5 years and one which would continue to be paid to your widow (or widower) if you were to die first.

The pension can be paid monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually as you prefer. You also have a choice of who will actually provide the benefits:

1. Through the "Open Market Option". At retirement you can use the fund built up through your Framlington Personal Pension to purchase a pension at the best rates obtainable from any company in the market.

2. From Framlington Life. The rates available will depend upon conditions at the time and may not be as good as you would be able to obtain through the "Open Market Option".

BENEFITS ON DEATH BEFORE RETIREMENT
If you have taken out a standard Framlington Personal Pension, with 100% of your contribution being invested in units, the amount payable on death will be the full value (at bid price) of the units allocated to your policy. If you have a Framlington Personal Pension which includes guaranteed life assurance benefits, with 97% of your contribution being invested in units, the amount payable on death before age 60 or, if applicable, any earlier retirement date, will be the greater of the value of the units allocated to your policy and the guaranteed sum assured. The sum assured depends on your age when you start your Framlington Personal Pension:

Age next birthday	Guaranteed sum assured for each £1,000 of contribution
25 or less	£3,000
26-30	£2,700
31-35	£2,400
36-40	£2,000
41-45	£1,800
46-50	£1,600
51-55	£1,500

The guaranteed life assurance benefits are not available to people who are aged 55 or more when taking out a Framlington Personal Pension. On death after age 60, if you have not started taking your pension, the amount payable will be the value of units in all cases.

MANAGEMENT CHARGES
Unless you have chosen to have the life assurance option for which a 3% deduction is made, 100% of your contributions are invested on your behalf. There are no extra charges over and above the normal annual

and initial charges for the unit trusts.

The annual charge, which is deducted from the income of each trust, is currently only 0.5% (+ VAT) of the value of the fund. The Trust Deed of each unit trust does however give the managers powers to increase this to a maximum of 1%. The initial charge, which is included in the offer price of the units, is 5%.

There are at present no direct annual charges for the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund — although the normal annual charges are deducted for the unit trusts (or the Framlington Pensions Cash Fund — 1.5%), in which it is invested. The initial charge for the Pensions Managed Fund, which is included in the offer price of the units, is 5%; the prices of the Fund take account of the initial charges of the unit trusts — so there is no "double-charging".

Commission is paid to agents at the same rate as for Framlington unit trusts, currently 1½%.

LOAN FACILITIES

Loan facilities can be provided by Courts Finance Co. Details are available on request.

NOTES

1. This advertisement is based on Framlington Life's understanding of legislation and Inland Revenue practice as at 1st January 1985.

2. Framlington Life can take no responsibility for determining whether or not contributions to Framlington Personal Pensions fall within the eligibility limits for the individuals concerned. If you are in any doubt whether your contributions will attract tax relief, you should consult a professional adviser.

3. All allocations to units under the Framlington Personal Pension are notional and merely for the purposes of determining the value of your policy; references to "investment" and "invested" should not be construed as conferring any right to the underlying units.

4. This advertisement is intended to provide information about Framlington Personal Pensions. Rights as between investors and Framlington Life will be governed solely by the terms of the policies. A specimen policy document for Framlington Personal Pensions can be obtained from Framlington Life Insurance Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, EC2M 5NQ.

Unit trusts invest in securities with prices that fluctuate and you should be aware that the price of units linked to Framlington Personal Pensions and the income from them restituted on your behalf may go down as well as up.

HOW TO APPLY

Simply complete the Application Form and send it with your cheque to:

Framlington Life Insurance Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ. Telephone No. 01-628 5181.

Separate policies will be issued for each trust (or the Pensions Managed Fund) you select. The minimum investment per policy is £500.

SPECIAL ONE PER CENT DISCOUNT OFFER UNTIL 5 APRIL 1985

Please send completed form to Framlington Life Insurance Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ.

PROPOSER Please use block capitals

SURNAME Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Titl

FULL FORENAMES

DATE OF BIRTH

OCCUPATION

ADDRESS

CONTRIBUTION

I enclose my cheque (payable to "Framlington Life Insurance Limited") for a single premium Framlington Personal Pension. I wish the premium to be applied for investment in the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund or Framlington Unit Trusts, at the offer price(s) ruling on receipt of this application, less 1% discount if received before 3pm on 5th April, 1985, as follows:

(insert "Pensions Managed Fund" or name of trust) £ (minimum £500)

Total Premium £

ELIGIBILITY Please Tick Appropriate Box

1 Are you engaged on your own account or as a partner personally acting in some trade, profession or occupation? Yes No

2 (a) Are you an employed person (or the holder of an office or employment)? Note: A controlling directorship of a company whose income consists wholly or mainly of investment income is not an office or employment for this purpose (see Section 226 (9) Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970). Yes No

2 (b) If YES, is one or more of your occupations non-pensionable? Note: An occupation is pensionable if in connection therewith you are a member of a sponsored superannuation scheme which is any scheme or arrangement from which you expect to receive a retirement benefit, whether in lump sum or pension form, which will not have been wholly provided out of your own resources. Yes No

ADDITIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE COVER

Do you wish 3% of your total premium to be used to secure guaranteed life assurance cover? Yes No

If YES please answer the questions below by ticking the appropriate box and sign the "Additional Declaration" below. If the answer to any of the questions is YES, please attach details separately (including the names and addresses of any doctors or hospitals you have consulted).

1. Have you any reason to believe you are not in good health? Yes No

2. Have you consulted a doctor or received any medical treatment in the last five years? (common cold, influenza, normal pregnancy and any obviously minor conditions need not be mentioned). Yes No

3. Are you likely to participate in aviation (other than as a fare-paying passenger) or in any hazardous pursuits or sports? Yes No

DECLARATION

I declare that the statements contained in this Application are true and complete and that I have Net Relevant Earnings taxed in the U.K. I agree that this Application shall be the basis of the proposed contract between me and Framlington Life Insurance Limited to provide benefits payable under Section 226 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970. I further understand that no benefit under the contract shall be capable of being surrendered nor any pension assigned or commuted except as permitted by Section 226 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

Signed _____ Date _____

Additional Declaration (This need only be signed if you are applying for additional life assurance cover)

I agree that this Application, including the information under the section headed Additional Life Assurance Cover, shall be the basis of a separate contract between me and Framlington Life Insurance Limited to provide benefits payable under Section 226A of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970. I consent to Framlington Life seeking medical information from any doctor or hospital I have consulted and I authorise the giving of such information.

Signed _____ Date _____

Registered Office as above. Registered in England No. 1689376

FRAMLINGTON PERSONAL PENSIONS

Self-employed?

The pension plan you chose could have made this much difference.

£18,342

If you think all pension plans are the same, you're in for a shock.

The independent magazine Planned Savings' most recent survey of 20 year regular premium with profit pension policies showed the Equitable Life Pension Fund at £42,095 to be once again among the best, 22% higher than the average of our competitors.

One of them produced as little as £23,753. £18,342 is quite a difference.

One way we do so well is by cutting our commission to middlemen.

So you'll need to get in touch with us direct.

Telephone us on 01-606 6611 or send this coupon FREEPOST.

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, 4 Colman Street, London EC2B 2JT. We welcome further details on your Self-Employed Pension Plans with: Annual/Variable premiums; Monthly Premiums; Unit-linked based alternatives.

Name Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms

Address

Postcode

Tel (Office)

Tel (Home)

Date of Birth

BRASA

The Equitable Life The oldest mutual life office in the world.

Commission can hear complaint but is entitled to refuse to

Regina v Broadcasting Complaints Commission, Ex parte Owen

Before Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Taylor [Judgment delivered January 25]

The Broadcasting Complaints Commission has jurisdiction pursuant to the Broadcasting Act 1981 to consider the complaint of the applicant, the leader of the Social Democratic Party, that the SDP and its Liberal partner in the Alliance had been unjustly or unfairly treated in television news programmes broadcast by the BBC and the IBA.

Nevertheless, it was clear from section 55(4) of the 1981 Act that the commission was still entitled to decline to exercise that jurisdiction or to proceed with the consideration of the complaint if it was satisfied that the Queen's Bench Divisional Court should hold in a reserved judgment granting a declaration sought in respect of the decision embodied in letters of complaint issued on July 25 and August 14, 1984, but not that sought in respect of the decision in its letter of November 13, 1984, and refusing an order of mandamus requiring the commission to consider the complaint.

Mr Anthony Lester, QC and Mr David Pannick for the applicant; Mr Conrad Hoffmann, QC and Mr Christopher Symons for the commission.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that the commission was established by section 17 of the Broadcasting Act 1980 and continued in existence by section 53 of the 1981 Act.

The duties of the IBA relating to the provision of programmes with a proper balance and wide range of subject matter and to the sufficiency, accuracy and impartiality of news features were contained in sections 2(2)(b) and 4(1) of the 1981 Act.

As regards the BBC, clause 13(7) of the current licence granted by the Home Secretary provided: "The Corporation shall at all times refrain from sending any broadcast matter expressing the opinion of the Corporation on current affairs or on matters of public policy..."

His Lordship said that the general principles of law were well-established in the Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation (1948) 1 KB 223 and Padfield v Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (1968) AC 997.

Mr Lester submitted, inter alia, that the applicant's complaint was clearly one which the commission had jurisdiction to entertain within the provisions of sections 54 and 55 of the 1981 Act, and consequently judicial review should be granted.

Mr Hoffmann submitted that the complaints were really against the policy of the broadcasting authorities in relation to political coverage and not against the content of a particular programme or programme.

His Lordship said that in the General Election in June, 1983, the Alliance obtained 25.4 per cent of the votes cast and the Labour Party 27.6 per cent. In seven by-elections since then the voting breakdown was 36 per cent for the Alliance, 32 per cent for the Conservatives and 29 per cent for Labour.

purpose of Part III of the 1981 Act was to provide an informal but informed tribunal independent of the broadcasting authorities, to whom individuals could complain that the content of programmes broadcast had been unjust or unfair to them either in what was said or shown or left unsaid or unshown, or what had been said or shown had been placed.

It was clear from section 54(1)(b) that Parliament only had such a limited personal type of complaint in mind rather than a much more general complaint in reality about the policy of a broadcasting organization since it was there provided that the function of the commission was to consider complaints not only of unjust or unfair treatment but also of unwarranted infringement of privacy.

The alleged political partiality complained of was a matter more relevantly to be dealt with under, for instance, sections 2(2)(b) and 4(1)(b) and (c) and the terms of the BBC's charter and licence.

However, without straining the words contained in sections 54 and 55, the complaints of the applicant were within them. Dr Owen contended that the material included in broadcast programmes had been selected to accord to the Alliance much less broadcast time than to the Labour Party.

While on modern principles of construction it was legitimate to adopt a purposive approach and hold that a statutory provision did apply to a given situation when it was clearly intended to do so even though it might not so apply on its strict literal interpretation, the converse was not correct namely that it was legitimate to adopt a purposive construction so as to prevent the application of a statute to a situation which on its purely literal construction it would apply.

Therefore, it would be wrong for the court to uphold the complaints commission's conclusion that it had no jurisdiction to hear the complaint.

As regards the commission's decision that even if it had jurisdiction under section 54 it would be inappropriate for it to do so under section 55(4), it was clear that section 55(4) was as wide in its terms as it could be and the commission was entitled to take its view of the content of its function.

Of course, the commission was not entitled to decline to entertain or proceed with consideration of the applicant's complaint merely that its view was based upon the reasons or reasons within the Wednesbury principles.

The applicant's real concern was not to have the broadcasting authorities required to publish comment by the commission on past programmes but to achieve a change of what he contended was editorial policy by those authorities in the future. That was not the type of relief the commission was empowered to grant.

Clearly, the commission decided not to consider the merits of the applicant's complaints, that is, the accuracy of the facts alleged and whether there was unjust or unfair treatment of either himself or the Alliance as a result.

Even if it was bound to consider them there was no reason why it would have been inhibited in considering those merits by the earlier decision that it had no jurisdiction. Moreover, by section 56(1) the commission was entitled so to decide without holding any hearing.

The commission was wrong to put forward as one of its reasons for refusing the complaint the fact that it was its duty to carry out a task which it was not required to do by the statute.

Relying upon the judgment of Mr Justice Forbes in R v Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, Ex parte Cromer Ring Mill Ltd (1982) 3 All ER 761, 768, Mr Lester said that the invitation to consider the reasons given by the commission invalidated its decision.

However, where the reasons given by a statutory body for taking or not taking a particular course of action were not made and could be distinguished and where the court was quite satisfied that even though one reason might be bad in law nevertheless the statutory body would have reached precisely the same decision but for that reason, the court would not interfere by way of judicial review.

His Lordship was satisfied that the commission would still have concluded that it was inappropriate to entertain or consider the applicant's complaint.

to entertain or consider the applicant's complaint.

MR JUSTICE TAYLOR, agreeing, said that section 56 was highly significant in that it dealt with the transfer in which the commission was required to consider complaints, and in the present case it was hard to see how the commission could proceed without a hearing.

Hearings were held in private see section 56(2), yet it was argued that the complaint was of great national importance going to the root of our democratic way of life. A private hearing would seem to be wholly inappropriate to determine the proper allocation in the public interest of broadcasting time on political issues.

There was no provision that other interested parties should be heard so a complainant, such as the applicant's would fall to be considered without the other political parties being heard in reply.

Therefore, the procedure as laid down in section 56 was designed to deal with complaints to which the only relevant parties were the complainant and those responsible for the programmes and/or criticism.

The applicant's complaints fell within the plain but wide meaning of the words in section 54, but they were not appropriate for the commission to entertain. Therefore the court was not to be asked to exercise its correspondingly wide discretion to invoke the final clause of section 53(4).

Solicitors: Herbert Smith & Co, Clifford-Turner.

Recovering damages for reduction in demurrage

Total Transport Corporation of Panama v Amoco Transport Company

Before Mr Justice Webster [Judgment delivered January 21]

Where a charterer loaded less than the minimum cargo stipulated in the charterparty, and the rate of demurrage to which the owners were entitled under the charterparty was thereby reduced, the owners could recover damages equal to the difference between the amount of demurrage to which they were entitled and that which they would have received had the minimum been loaded, in addition to the deadweight payment provided by the charterparty in respect of the cargo shortfall and to the demurrage.

Mr Justice Webster so held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division, giving judgment for the owners of the Atlas, Total Transport Corporation of Panama.

AC 479, 554, 556, 557-8; Hudson v Hill (1874) 13 QBD 339, 340; Bull & Co v Binnington & Co (1891) 1 QB 35, 38, 40, 41; Gem Shipping Co of Monaco v Bahawan (Lebanon) S.A.R.L. (1975) 1 Lloyd's Rep 339, 340; Lloyd's Rep 339, 340; Lloyd's Rep 339, 340.

MR JUSTICE WEBSTER said that the Atlas had been chartered on an Exconvoy 69 standard form charterparty. After discharging its cargo at oil the port authority requested the master to flush out the hoses through which the cargo had been discharged, to avoid pollution and to ballast the loading barge with seawater which was necessary to be effectively obliged to comply.

In his Lordship's judgment the time taken for both the flushing and the ballasting was laytime in respect of which the owners were entitled to demurrage. The charterparty provided in E. L. Oldendorff & Co GmbH v Tradax Export SA (1974) 1 Lloyd's Rep 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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Table with 3 columns: Amount Invested and Bonus, Free Units, Total Units. Rows: £1,000-1% (101, 101.01), £2,500-1% (252, 252.25), £10,000-2% (2,040, 102,040).

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Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, containing text like 'A dream come true for Epple' and 'difficulties increase and down'.

A dream come true for Eppler

West German, Maria Eppler, who has not achieved a World Cup victory for two years, returned to the winner's rostrum yesterday after winning her first slalom race by one-hundredth of a second.



Golden moment: The German skier, Müller, Schwarz and Weinbuch, celebrate winning the gold medal for the men's Nordic team event at Seefeld, after using the skating technique

Thrown off track by skating technique

Something extraordinary has been happening in the Alps this week. The 35th Nordic Skiing World Championships here, not only the International Federation (FIS), have been thrown into a turmoil such as seldom confronts a sport by the fact that most of the world's top skiers have been using a technique called 'skating' instead of the conventional manner.

Like a skater, occasionally changing the static foot. When coming to uphill gradients, they are still 'skating', but with a slight heel lift as they ascend. This is a technique which is not only used by the skiers but also by the judges.

The transformation in technique has produced an increase in speed of between 5 and 10 per cent, and the most remarkable aspect is that it has not been adopted previously. It has been used by a few skiers, but the Soviet Union has finished with outside the men's medals, and the Soviet press representatives have received an official communication stipulating that all reporting hereafter 'must be devoted to self-criticism'.

Advantage from sturdy physique

More crucial still, however, is the commercial survival of the Nordic cross-country events that competitive 'skating' destroys the effective use of tracks by tourist skiers enjoying the normal technique.

Ski used in a skating action

The Swiss, I understand, stole a march in the most famous slalom, in the Alps, in the Scandinavian countries by having 800 kilometres over glaciers during their winter training prior to the championships.

Easy win for West Germany

Seefeld (Reuter) - West Germany scored an overwhelming victory in the men's combined team event at the World Nordic Skiing Championships here yesterday. The three-man West German team built up a big lead in Thursday's 70-metre jumping and cruised home in yesterday's 3 x 10km cross-country.

Pakistan succumb to seam attack

Auckland (Reuter) - The New Zealand bowlers took advantage of favourable conditions to beat Pakistan under pressure on the opening day of the second Test match at Eden Park yesterday.

W Indies set to make clean sweep

Adelaide (Reuter) - West Indies, having won seven times already to reach the final, are seeking a clean sweep of their ten qualifying matches in the West Indies Cup limited-over tournament which resumes today.

Five for Thompson

Bendigo, Victoria (Reuter) - The Australian captain, Rachee Thompson, produced an inspired piece of bowling to upset England's hopes on the first day of the fifth and final women's Test match yesterday.

Moxon stands by with upright bat as Lamb stands down

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Delhi

England fly up to Chandigarh today to play the last of their five one-day internationals against India, amid security that will be as tight as at any time on the tour. This is mainly to guard against the possibility of political opportunism, perhaps even fanaticism, though there have also been threats that if the match is held it will be "no match in the City Beautiful".

The Indian selectors are expected to announce their players for next month's one-day tour to Australia on Monday, and if they choose the strongest side Gavaskar must be in, though not necessarily to play in the first two days of the tour.

England have a problem finding a Balanced one-day side. This is due to a lack of authentic all-rounders. Gavaskar is a batsman, and Mark Waugh is a batsman, and Mark Waugh is a batsman.

Rugby League

Rovers return scenting revenge

By Keith Macklin

For the fifth time since 1980, and the eighth time in the history of the two Hull clubs, there will be a Humber derby in a major final.

Rugby Union

John Player Special Cup

Third Round

Abertillery v Aberystwyth

Aberystwyth v Aberystwyth

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THE TIMES 1785-1985. A commemorative logo for the newspaper's 200th anniversary.

During the British stages of the 1985 Monte Carlo Rally the Times carried an account written by one of the competitors, a member of J. O. H. Willing's crew.

MONTE CARLO RALLY FROM JOHN O'GROATS TO FOLKESTONE. SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JANUARY 26 1985.

Although when we reached Folkestone only a third of our journey to Monte Carlo had been completed, it seemed a very long time since we left London for our starting point, John O'Groats.

At 11.05 p.m. we were started in a raging hailstorm, but after a few miles it cleared. Apart from a small snowstorm later, the weather was good for our first stage to Aberdeen, a distance of 245 miles, being accomplished well within our time limit.

After an agreeable stay at the Royal Scottish Automobile Club, who provided us with every facility, we left for our first destination, Doncaster, by way of Scotch Corner and over the Pennine range, a long run of 234 miles. All the competitors were able to reach this control, with plenty of time to spare, and were not too tired to check over their cars for the last long run down to the south coast.

The run to Folkestone was completed without incident of any sort. The car continued to run perfectly and the night was fine, making driving very simple. On nearing London, and again from London to Folkestone, we found the roads rather slippery because of the new tarmac.

A champion fights flu. Monte Carlo (Reuter) - The Monte Carlo Rally, which was nearly driven off the road this winter, roars back to life through the highways of Europe today.

Difficulties increase in downhill

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, West Germany (Reuter) - The world's best downhill skiers face a stern test in today's Kandahar race on the demanding course here.

Favourites for the race, the last downhill before the world championships in Bolnisi, Italy, are the two Austrians, Helmut Hoelzlner and Peter Wirsberger. Hoelzlner has already won two downhill titles this season and Wirsberger won the last race in Wengen.

The strongest challenge is likely to come from the powerful Swiss contingent, led by Peter Mueller, second fastest behind Hoelzlner in yesterday's first training session.

Furini Zurbriggen, the overall World Cup leader, is not racing here. He is training at home in Switzerland after a knee operation last week, and hopes to be fully fit for Bormio.

FA Cup Fourth Round

Barnsley v Brighton

Darlington v Tottenham

Everton v Doncaster Rovers

Grimsey Town v Watford

Ipswich Town v Gillingham

Weekend Football, Rugby and Other Fixtures

First division

West Bromwich v QPR

Sheff Wed v Charlton

Sheff Wed v Charlton

Sheff Wed v Charlton

Sheff Wed v Charlton

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Scottish Cup Third Round

Aberdeen v Alloa Athletic

Aberdeen v Alloa Athletic

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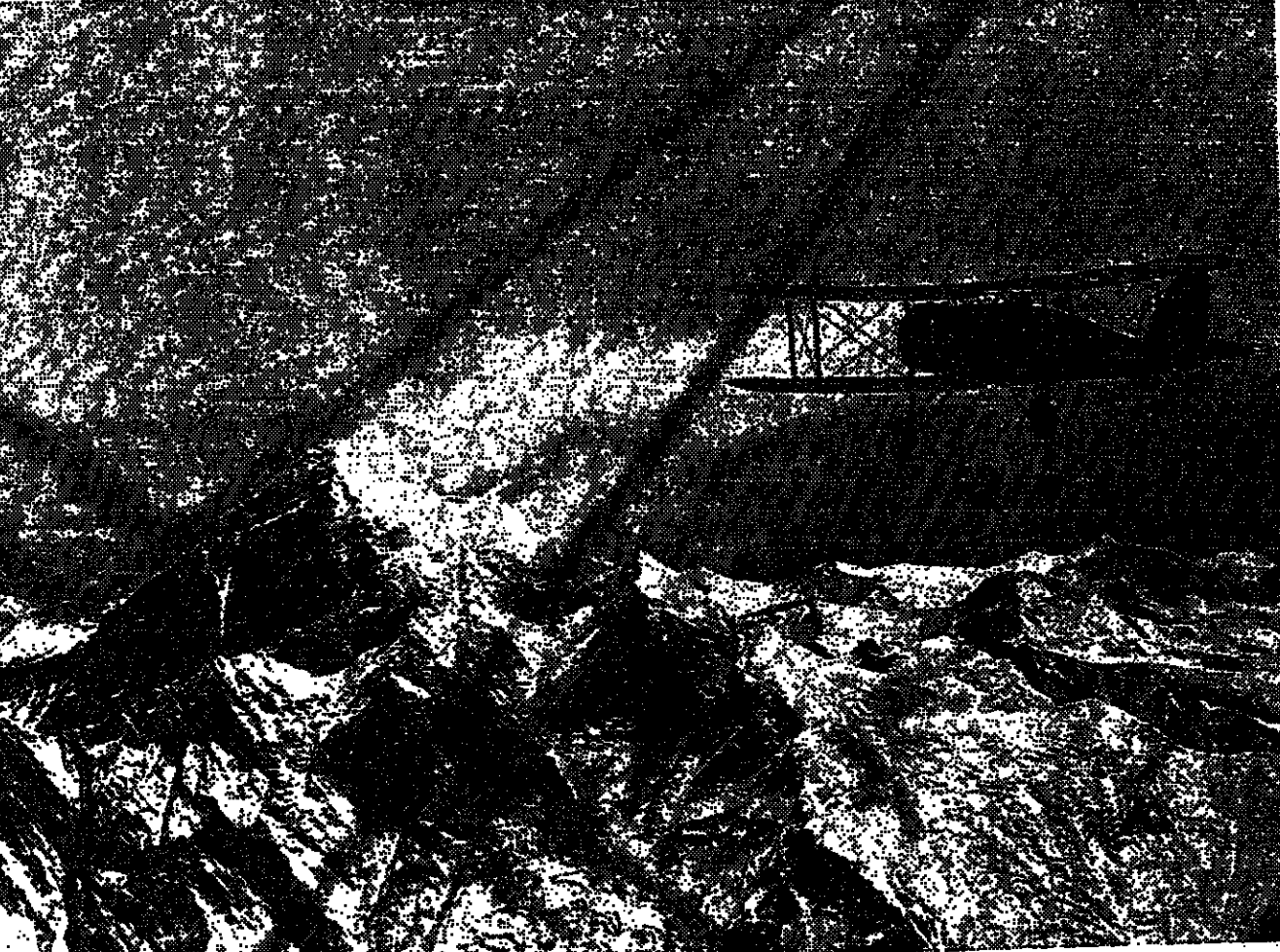
Keep Fit and Warm. Two bargains from BOURNE SPORTS. Advertisement for winter sports gear.

Botha promises blacks new political rights

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg
President Botha of South Africa promised yesterday new political structures and property rights for the country's black majority.

Heseltine challenged over cost of Trident

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, is to be pressed next week to reconcile differing statements by himself and his deputies about the Trident missile programme, Julian Haviand, Our Political Editor writes.



Making history: The Houston Westland at 32,000 feet approaching the Lhotse face of Everest in April 1933.

Medal auction evokes heroic 1933 flight over Everest

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent
Two magnificent little aircraft flying over the peak of Everest caught the public imagination in 1933, for no climber had yet reached the summit.

Letter from Moscow

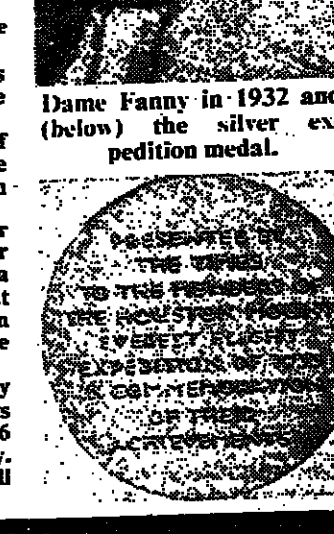
There are times in Moscow when you are brought up short by the rough edge of Soviet society, just when you thought things were getting slightly better.

In search of pizza topping and pens

The tape-recorders and door bells produced by the Kuibyshev Electrical Factory look dated, but then so do the giant transformers and reactors taking shape on the factory floor.



Dame Fanny in 1932 and (below) the silver expedition medal.

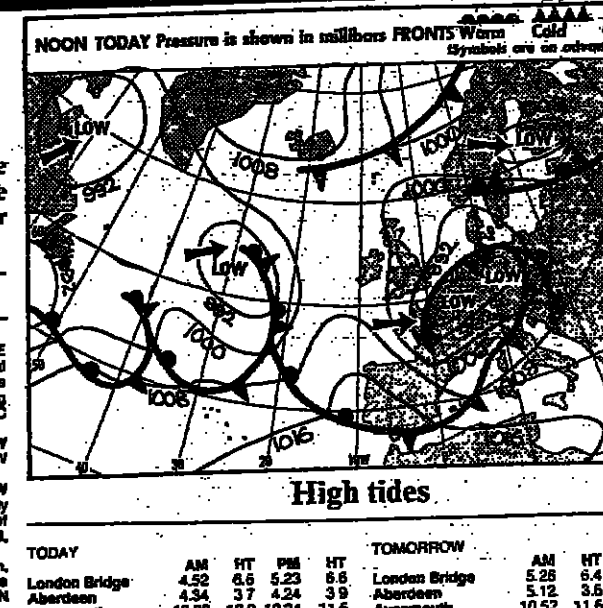


THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events
Cello and piano recital by Nicholas Jones and Gayle Light.
New exhibition: Sculpture by James Castle.

Tomorrow
Royal engagements: The Duke of Kent, Chairman of the European Music Year 1985.
Anniversaries: Benjamin Robert Haydon, painter, who painted 'Waiting for the Times'.

Weather forecast
A depression over N France will move and allow a ridge of high pressure to build over western districts.
6 am to midnight



The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,645

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers in the starting squares. The grid is partially filled with letters, and some squares are blacked out.

The pound

A table showing exchange rates for various currencies including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, and West Germany.

Portfolio

A table showing stock market performance for various companies and indices, including the FTSE 100 and other regional indices.

Around Britain

A table showing weather conditions across different regions of Britain, including the East Coast, South Coast, and West Coast.

Rail delays

Trains to and from South Wales will be delayed today and tomorrow because of engineering work to ease flooding in the Ableton Lane tunnel.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000: 18RB 096018 (the winner).

Snow reports

A table providing snow reports for various locations, including depth, conditions, and weather forecasts.

Lighting-up time

TODAY: Sun rises 7:16 am, sets 4:19 pm. Moon rises 7:46 am, sets 10:25 pm.

London

Yesterday's Temp: max 8 am to 8 pm, 6C (48F); min 8 pm to 8 am, 0C (32F). Humidity: 6 pm, 57%.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday's Highest day temp: 11C (52F); lowest day temp: 0C (32F); highest night temp: 4.4C (40F); lowest night temp: -2.5C (28.5F).

Abroad

A table showing weather conditions for various international locations, including Madrid, Athens, Rome, and others.

A vertical strip of advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'The Times Tomorrow', 'Jewish fu at receipt of Nazi', 'Gulf attack', 'Walkers kille', 'Rock's future', 'Cameron dies', 'Liverpool recor', and 'England win'.